Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-075 *19 April 1988*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 April Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Further on Reaction to Death of Khalil al-Wazir 3
'Arafat Address *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 3
Habash on Funeral *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
Abu Nidal Vows Vengeance *[AFP]* 4
'Arafat To Miss Funeral *[Beirut Voice of Lebanon]* 5
PNC Speaker Will Not Attend *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
Body of Abu Jihad Leaves Tunis for Damascus *[KUNA]* 5
2 Mosad Groups Reportedly Arrested in Baghdad *[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 18 Apr]* 5
Palestinian Deportees Interviewed on 'Uprising' *[Damascus]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Reportage on Hijack Situation 18-19 Apr 7
Remains on Tarmac 7
'Deadlock' in Negotiations *[KUNA]* 7
Hijackers Request Food, Koran 7
Released Hostage Departs *[KUNA]* 7
Contact Resumed 19 Apr 7
Papers, Medicine Requested 8
Statement 'Postponed' *[Paris]* 8
Talks at 'Critical Point' *[KUNA]* 8

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From Visit to Jordan 15 Apr 8
Speaks on Jordanian-PLO Ties 8
Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives 16 Apr 9
Met by Sidqi *[Tunis]* 9
Received by Mubarak 9
Delivers Message 10
Joint Committee Established 10
Makes 'Predeparture Statement' 11
Departs 19 Apr 11
Mubarak Discusses Domestic, Foreign Issues 11
Mubarak Sends Condolences to PLO's 'Arafat 12
Ghali Condemns Assassination 12
'Abd al-Majid Cables 'Arafat 12
Commentary Views Assassination 12
AL-SAFIR Notes Israeli List of Targets *[18 Apr* 13
Al-Baz Returns From U.S., Makes Statement 13
Ghali 'Regrets' U.S. Veto of UN Resolution 14
'Abd al-Majid on Iran, Al-Faw Operation 14
'Abd al-Majid on Conference, Arab League HQ 14

Saudi Minister on Meeting With Mubarak 15
Ends Visit, Departs 15
Paper Urges U.S. To Reaffirm Position on 242 *[AL-AHRAM 14 Apr]* 15

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets FRG Parliamentary Delegation 15
Seminar on Terrorism Concludes With Resolutions 16
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Delegation 16
Jallud Meets Algerian 16
Official, Soviet Confer 16
Recommendations Issued 16
Arab, Soviet Envoys Summoned Over U.S. Attacks 17
Jallud Addresses OAU Trade Union Meeting 17
Jallud Addresses Conference on Industry 18

Tunisia

Israeli Responsibility for Killing 'Proved' 19
Envoys Briefed on Assassination 19
Khalil al-Wazir's Body To Go To Damascus 19
Egyptian Newspaper Interview With Baccouche *[Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH 14 Apr]* 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Crown Prince Comments on Gulf War, Hijacking *[Kuwait ARAB TIMES 17 Apr]* 22

Kuwait

Cabinet Reviews Hijacking, Honors 2 'Martyrs' 22
Minister of State Thanks Algerian Officials 23
Papers Hail Government Stance Against Hijackers 23
Condolences Expressed Over Al-Wazir Killing 23
Amir Allocates Payment for Al-Wazir's Family *[AL-QABAS 17 Apr]* 23

PDRY

Al-Bid, Delegation Return to Aden From YAR 24

Saudi Arabia

Communique Condemns 'Grave Iranian Aggression' 24

Yemen Arab Republic

Reportage on Visit by PDRY's Al-Bid 25
Arrives 16 Apr 25
Holds Talks on Unity 25
Holds Final Talks, Departs 26

IRAQ

Papers Cited on Khalil al-Wazir Assassination 27
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities 27
Communique No 3,148 27
Missile Strike at Qom 27
Defense Minister on Al-Faw 28
Saddam Visits Battlefield 28
Downing of Plane Denied 28
Army Commanders Cable Saddam 28

Strikes on Esfahan, Shiraz 29
Missile Fired on Tehran 29
Saddam Chairs Command Meeting 29
F-5 Downed 19 Apr 29
Commander on Al-Faw Battle 29
2 Iranian F-5's Downed 30
Press Comments on 'Blessed Ramadan' Operation 30

ISRAEL

Leaders React to Al-Wazir Death, Allegations 31
Shamir: Remarks 'Nonsense' 31
TIME, NBC Reports 'Lies' 31
Refuses Further Comment 31
Remarks by Ambassador to FRG *[Hamburg BILD 18 Apr]* 31
Weizman: Killing 'Negative' 32
Shamir Vows To Fight PLO to 'Bitter End' 32
Sharon Advocates Attacks on All PLO Branches 32
Commentary on Goals, Impact of Al-Wazir Murder *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 17 Apr]* 32
Shamir Sees No Role for UK in Peace Process *[THE JERUSALEM POST 18 Apr]* 33
UK Prevents Novik Meeting With Soviet Official *[HADASHOT 19 Apr]* 34
Novik Cites Delay in Moscow *[HADASHOT 18 Apr]* 34
'No Significance' in Soviet Visit Postponement *[DAVAR 19 Apr]* 34
USSR Permitting Reciprocal Tourist Visits *[DAVAR 17 Apr]* 34
Sharir, Navon Meet With Polish Officials 35
Discuss Nazi Criminals 35
'Highest-Level Meeting' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 18 Apr]* 35
Demjanjuk Convicted on All Indictment Charges 35
Rabin on Territories Unrest, Al-Wazir Murder 35
6 Bayta Residents, 2 Others Expelled to Lebanon 36
6 Withdraw Deportation Appeals 36
More on Deportations 36
Names, Details of Deportees 36
Mitzna' To Free Young Detainees for Ramadan 36
More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories 37
Nabulus Mayor 'Ready To Resign' 37
Umm al-Fahm Mourns Al-Wazir *[AL HAMISHMAR 17 Apr]* 37
AL-FAJR Protests Censorship 37
Security Inmates Mourn Al-Wazir 37
2 Killed; AL-'AWDAH Closed 37
Curfew Update; 2 Papers Banned 38
Al-Wazir Home Closed Area 38
Closed Communist Party Paper's Editor Arrested 38

JORDAN

King Congratulates Saddam Husayn on 'Victory' 39
King Husayn Hails Army in Anniversary Letter 39
Prime Minister Addresses Talks on 'Uprising' *[JORDAN TIMES 14-15 Apr]* 39
'Black September' Statement on Amman Car Bomb *[Beirut AL-NAHAR 18 Apr]* 41
Iraq Conducts 'Successful' Jordan-PLO Mediation *[Abu Dhabi]* 41
AL-RA'Y Notes Officials Appointed, Retired *[17 Apr]* 41
UN Veto Will 'Endanger' U.S. Interests *[AL-DUSTUR 16 Apr]* 42
Columnist Criticizes Media Handling of News *[JORDAN TIMES 18 Apr]* 42

LEBANON

'Sources' Cited on Higgins' Whereabouts *[AL-SHIRA' 18 Apr]* 43
Businessmen Working To Free French Hostages *[RFL]* 43
Al-Jumayyil Phones Kuwaiti Ruler on Hijacking *[VOL]* 43
Shi'ites Condemn Hijacking 43
PSP Criticizes Al-Wazir Assassination *[VOM]* 43
Shams al-Din on Al-Wazir *[VOM]* 44
Sham'un Defends Program, Rejects Sectarianism *[London AL-MAJALLAH 12 Apr]* 44
Karim Paqraduni on Elections, Ja'ja' Role *[RFL]* 45
Ja'ja': Solution Must Come From Within *[RFL]* 46
Various Syrian Positions in Tripoli Attacked 46
Attack in Abu Samrah 15 Apr *[RFL]* 46
Al-Tall Attack 16 Apr *[RFL]* 46
2 Killed 18 April *[RFL]* 46
Amal, Hizballah Plan New Moves Following Clashes *[VOL]* 46
Group Criticizes Amal Leadership, 'Dirty War' *[RFL]* 47
Resistance Fighters Attack Lahd Patrol in Yarin 47
1 Killed in Fighting Along Southern Suburb Line *[VOL]* 47
Fadlallah Expects 'Lightning Israeli Operation' *[VOL]* 47
Palestinian Camps on 'Maximum Alert' in South *[VOL]* 47

SYRIA

Al-Zu'bi Receives GDR Deputy Trade Minister 48
Prime Minister Receives USSR Official 48
Soviet Space Delegation Arrives on Visit 48
Talas Meets Space Delegation 48
Paper on Israel's 'Terrorist Methods,' Al-Wazir 48
'Unchanging' Principles 'Cripple' U.S. Policy 48
Paper on Need for 'Solidarity' Against U.S. 49

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Wakil Explains Details of Geneva Agreements 50
Agreement Signed With Pakistan on Nonintervention *[Moscow TASS]* 52
Agreement on Return of Refugees *[Moscow TASS]* 53
Mujahidin Leader Sayyaf Rejects Geneva Accords *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 16 Apr]* 54
Seven-Party Alliance Vows To Continue Fighting *[AFP]* 55
PDPA Condolences to 'Arafat on Al-Wazir Death 55
Najibullah, Keshtmand Attend Lenin Commemoration 55
USSR, U.S. Scientists, Sociologists Arrive 56
Presidential Office Announcement on Ramadan 56

India

Gandhi Comments on Pakistan, Geneva Pact 56
Prime Minister Gandhi Visits Vietnam *[cross-reference]* 57
Geneva Accords 'Political Success' for U.S. 57
Bangladesh Border Patrols To Intensify 57
New Roads, Barbed Wire Planned 58
Home Minister Voices Concern Over Border 58
'Major Administration Shake-Up' in Punjab 58
14 Killed by Punjab 'Terrorists' 16 Apr 58
'Terrorists' Kill 5 in Punjab Incidents 18 Apr 59
Paper Charges Pakistan With Arming Sikhs *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 5 Apr]* 59
Briefs 59
Drive Against Drug Smugglers 59

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed on Gulf Events 59
Khamene'i Warns U.S. of 'Bitter Consequences' 60
Swiss Envoy Summoned 61
Velayati Sends 2 Letters to Perez de Cuellar 61
Velayati, 'Future Leader' Montazeri Meet 17 Apr 61
Further Reportage, Comment on U.S. 'Attacks' 61
Communique No 3,176 61
U.S. Oil Platform Attacked 62
Citizens Asked To 'Crush' U.S. 62
Call for 'Sacred Defense' 63
School Children To Go to Fronts 63
U.S. 'Preventing' Rescue 63
U.S. Warned of 'Harsh Response' 63
Malekzadegan Interviewed 64
Commander on Cobra Downing 64
SAIRI Condemns U.S. Attack 65
Al-Faw, Other Military Operations Continue 65
Toxic Gas Affects Abadan 65
Iraqi Plane Downed in Al-Faw 65
SAIRI To Fight in Al-Faw 65
Qom Hit by Iraqi Missiles 66
Tehran, Esfahan Hit by Missiles 66
Tehran Casualties From Missiles 66
Reprisals on Iraqi Cities 66
10 Missiles Fired at Iraq 66
More Missiles Hit Qom, Esfahan 66
'Several' Die in Tehran Attack 66
Tehran Cites U.S. Expert on Situation in Gulf 66
Tehran Comments on U.S. Navy Ship Hitting Mine 67
Musavi Terms Ramadan 'Month of Resistance' 67
Commentary on Responsibility for Al-Wazir Murder 67
Besharati on Reasons for UN Delegation Dispatch 68
Foreign Ministry Condemns U.S. Veto at UN 68
Congratulatory Telegrams Exchanged With USSR *[Moscow TASS]* 69

Pakistan

President Sends Message to Gorbachev on Accord 69
Noorani Returns From Geneva Proximity Talks 69
More on Airport Remarks 69
Noorani Briefs Parliament on Geneva Accord 70
Detonations at Ammunition Dump Continue 70
5 Injured in Explosions 15 Apr *[Delhi]* 70
Remaining Ammunition Destroyed 70
Bomb Explosions Explained 70
Explosion Causes 10 Casualties 70
Area 'Completely Safe' 71
21 Killed in Police Clash With Tribesmen *[Delhi]* 71
4 Killed, 11 Hurt in Bomb Blast in Charsadda 71

19 April Middle East and South Asia Review

LD191255 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Iran on U.S. Action—The United States should expect a "harsh" Iranian response that will "sever the roots of the U.S. existence in the region," the Iranian Foreign Ministry warned in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio. Claiming that the United States has "openly entered the war against Iran," the statement viewed the U.S. attacks on Iranian oil platforms as part of a "pre-planned conspiracy." Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani likewise told Tehran television that the U.S. action and the Iraqi operation in Al-Faw were part of a "massive international plot" aimed at counteracting Iraq's recent defeats on the northern front. Reaffirming Iranian claims that U.S. helicopters attacked Iranian forces in Al-Faw from a different side, he stated that eight non-Iraqi helicopters were used in these attacks, and monitored radio messages show they were "American."

Reporting on the clashes with the U.S. Navy in the Gulf, IRNA claimed that Iranian warships downed a U.S. helicopter, and the agency also accused U.S. warplane pilots of firing missiles at Iranian gunboats that were trying to help civilian personnel at the oil platforms. One of these boats sustained "heavy losses," IRNA said, and an Iranian frigate was also hit in an "unequal battle" with U.S. warships. Tehran radio acknowledged that two Iranian frigates sustained "heavy" damage in a "heroic battle" with six U.S. frigates. The radio claimed that one U.S. frigate was damaged. A number of Iranian Oil Ministry employees were killed or wounded in the U.S. attacks on the Salman and Nasr oil platforms. The radio also admitted that its forces attacked an oil platform leased to U.S. companies, despite its earlier claim that U.S. forces were responsible for the attack on the platform in the UAE's Mubarak offshore oil field. In a related development, AFP reported that Iranian speedboats attacked a Cypriot oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz 18 April. Speedboats also opened fire a second time on the British vessel "York Marine."

Iraqi Recapture of Al-Faw—Iraqi forces entered Al-Faw 18 April and "the invaders were thrown cursing their hard luck and licking their wounds on the eastern bank of Shatt al-'Arab," the Iraqi command announced in a communique carried by Baghdad radio. Iraqi commanders cited by INA announced that Iraqi troops had reached Ra's al-Bishah, on the farthest point of Iraq's border on the Gulf, and that they were pursuing the Iranians "like hawks after birds." INA said the news of the liberation of Al-Faw triggered a wave of joy throughout Iraq, while Baghdad radio noted that President Saddam Husayn visited the operational zone to meet with commanders of the VII Army Corps and the Presidential Guard.

Outside Iraq, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Jordanian King Husayn both congratulated Saddam Husayn on the recapture of Al-Faw, MENA noted. The Saudi Cabinet likewise expressed "deep satisfaction" and congratulated Iraq, SPA noted. A Cabinet communique cited by the agency accused Iran of "widening the zone" of its war with Iraq to involve other parties in the conflict, and it condemned Iran's "aggressions" against Bubiyan Island and the UAE's Mubarak oilfield. The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry denied Iranian allegations that Kuwait allowed Bubiyan Island to be used for military operations against Iranian forces on Al-Faw, according to Kuwait radio.

Without directly acknowledging the fall of Al-Faw, Tehran radio admitted that "the forces of Islam" adopted "new defensive positions" in the area as a result of the "intensification of pressure" on them caused by simultaneous clashes with U.S. and Iraqi forces. IRNA also reiterated Iranian claims that the Iraqis used chemical weapons, asserting that enemy chemical attacks were so heavy that toxic gases spread across the Shatt al-'Arab to Abadan.

War of the Cities—Iraq launched two more missiles at Iran the evening of 18 April, one at Tehran and the other at Qom, according to announcements over Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi planes also dealt two strikes on Dezful. The missile attacks brought the total fired at Iran that day to 6, raising the overall number of "Al-Husayn" missiles fired since 29 February to 181. Meanwhile, Iran fired 10 surface-to-surface missiles at Baghdad, Khanaqin, and Basra, IRNA reported. The Iranian agency also stated that the 18 April Iraqi missile attacks killed "scores" of civilians. Iraqi civilians were likewise killed by Iran's missile strike on Baghdad, an Iraqi spokesman announced in a statement carried by Voice of the Masses.

Developments After Al-Wazir Assassination

The investigation of the assassination has "proved Israel's responsibility for this treacherous act and its planning and execution of this operation," Tunis radio reported. The "armed terrorist group" which killed Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, was backed by technological support in the form of an Israeli military Boeing 707 which flew near Tunisian air space during the operation and electronically jammed wire and wireless communications at Sidi Bu Sa'id, the radio said. Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri informed ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council of "the seriousness of the terrorist operation perpetrated by Israel" on Tunisian territory, and noted that Tunisia will ask the Security Council to take measures to end the "international terrorism" practiced by Israel. The radio also disclosed that Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has recommended a revision of current security precautions and reinforcement of the units tasked with protecting Palestinian leaders in Tunisia.

For Israel's part, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denied U.S. reports that Israel was responsible for the assassination, asserting that such allegations are "nonsense" and "lies," according to Jerusalem and IDF radio reports. Nevertheless, "well-informed" Israeli sources cited by AFP affirmed that Al-Wazir was killed by an Israeli commando unit, though monitored Israeli media were not observed to mention this. Among other Israeli comment, IDF radio broadcast Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon's view that the assassination has "avenged justly" the memory of many victims. Contending that there are not many individuals with as much "Jewish and other blood on their hands" as Abu Jihad, Sharon noted that he has repeatedly stressed the need to eliminate terrorist leaders.

As for Al-Wazir's funeral, Damascus radio confirmed that his body will be buried in Damascus, and Tunis radio revealed that the funeral will be on 20 April. PFLP leader George Habash told Radio Monte Carlo that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has agreed to allow PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to attend, adding that the presence of 'Arafat and other top PLO officials in Syria may pave the way for a resumption of dialogue between Syria and the PLO. However, a PLO official cited by Voice of Lebanon radio subsequently stated that 'Arafat will not attend the funeral in Damascus.

'Arafat eulogized Al-Wazir in an address to the Palestinian people broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio, reaffirming his claim that the U.S. Administration gave Israel a "green light" and "prior permission" for the operation. He called on Palestinians to "escalate" their revolution and uprising, and to "scorch the earth under the feet of the occupiers." In Amman, PNC Speaker 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the Iraqi authorities recently arrested two Mosad groups which were planning to assassinate PLO leaders in Baghdad. In another development, Sabri al-Banna (Abu Nidal), leader of the breakaway Fatah Revolutionary Council, promised to avenge Al-Wazir's murder by making the assassins "pay with their blood," AFP noted.

Israel

Territories—Two Palestinians were killed during riots in the Gaza Strip 18 April, IDF radio reported. One youth was killed when an IDF officer was "forced" to use live ammunition in Rafah, the radio said. A woman was also killed by gunfire in another area, though the IDF said it had no knowledge of any incident in which she could have been shot. In "Judaea and Samaria," Nabulus and 15 refugee camps were still under curfew, while several major towns remained closed military zones. The radio also noted that the Interior Ministry has ordered the closure of the East Jerusalem paper AL-'AWDAH on the grounds that it is funded and operated by "terrorist organizations." In remarks cited by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Shamir stressed that Israel will fight PLO terrorism "to the bitter end."

Demjanjuk Verdict—The special court in Jerusalem ruled that John Ivan Demjanjuk is "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka and found him guilty on all charges in the indictment, Jerusalem radio reported. He was convicted of crimes against the Jewish people and humanity, war crimes, and crimes against persecuted persons. His sentence will be announced 25 April.

Hijacked Kuwaiti Airliner

Fadl al-Sabah, a member of the Kuwaiti ruling family held hostage on the plane, "implored" his government in a "faint and weak" voice to meet the hijackers' demands, Algiers radio reported 18 April. The radio also noted that the hijackers met only once with the Algerian mediator that day, and according to KUNA, they asked the authorities to run a maintenance check on the plane's engines. KUNA observed that security around the aircraft was tightened in anticipation of the arrival "of a very important Arab personality" to negotiate with the hijackers.

"Intransigence" of the hijackers and the Kuwaiti delegation led to the hijackers' 17 April request for the plane to be refuelled for departure, Algiers radio stated. However, the Algerian mediators convinced the hijackers to give up the idea of taking off, the radio stressed. For its part, the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers "praised" the Algerian officials' efforts in an 18 April emergency Cabinet meeting, KUNA reported.

Lebanon

'Abbas Hamadah was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment in the FRG, DPA reported 19 April, noting that the Lebanese defendant was found guilty of coercion of the Federal Government for his part in the hostage-taking of Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt. The sentence, which exceeds the 11 and 1/2 years sought by the prosecution, also takes into account Hamadah's import of explosives.

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil returned to Kabul 18 April following the signing of the Geneva accords, Moscow television reported. He was accompanied by U.S. and Soviet "public figures" arriving for a joint conference on the problems of Afghanistan to open 19 April, the television added.

With the accords signed, the government will appeal for restoration of aid from Japan and Western countries, according to Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq. Sharq, cited by KYODO, said that funds are needed for transportation and housing repairs to encourage refugees to return to their homes rather than converge on the capital. KYODO noted that Japan and the UK have already announced aid packages for Afghanistan.

Palestinian Affairs

Further on Reaction to Death of Khalil al-Wazir

'Arafat Address

JN181944 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1757 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Address on 18 April by Yasir 'Arafat identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, to the Palestinian people on the death of Khalil al-Wazir; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God: of them some have completed their vow to the extreme and some still wait: But they have never changed their determination in the least. [Koranic verse]

My kinfolk and beloved ones in the occupied homeland; my kinfolk and my beloved ones in the diaspora; my comrades-in-arms; and my fellow strugglers, revolutionaries, and free men in our Arab nation; O strugglers who are defending freedom in the world: We bid farewell to one of the symbols of struggle. We bid farewell to Abu Jihad [Khalil-al-Wazir], the colleague, brother, and leader. We bid farewell today to one of our Arab nation's heroes and one of the most unyielding revolutionaries in the world at large.

We bid farewell today to my brother, colleague, and my comrade-in-arms Abu Jihad as well as to this convoy of martyrs of our blessed revolutionary uprising. They are recording with their blood the legend of freedom and are enhancing the source of ever-increasing offerings to irrigate the march with this pure blood and to illuminate the road of our nation, people, and our masses toward glory, dignity, loftiness, liberation, and repatriation. Abu Jihad has met martyrdom. My brother, friend, and beloved one has met martyrdom while he was at the head of his revolutionary post at dawn on 16 April 1988. He remained the same as we have always know him. Brothers, he has met martyrdom while still carrying his weapon. He resisted until he was outnumbered by the criminal Zionist gang of the Israeli Mosad. Scores of bullets riddled his beloved body, bullets of treachery and crime.

Brothers and my beloved ones, we have lost him. With his departure, we have lost a brother, a veteran struggler, and a revolutionary friend who cherished martyrdom and obtained it. Abu Jihad, you won martyrdom before me. Through his martyrdom, he fulfilled the pledge of the loyal strugglers who are faithful to their ideology and homeland and who were martyred for these objectives. Congratulations to you, my cormade-in-arms.

We know that the decision was an Israeli one at the highest echelons of power and in accordance with a green light from the U.S. Administration and prior permission from it. We know this. We know the U.S. Administration gave the green light. The U.S. Administration is the strategic ally of Israel. They believed and imagined that with their crime they could affect the course of our people's revolution, uprising, and gigantic march. They are mistaken to believe so. They did not know it will be a furnace that will kindle the fire and entrench the uprising. I say they did not know that the price of this crime is prohibitive and that Abu Jihad's blood will not be squandered.

Abu Jihad, the knight and the leader, has dismounted, he who has never done so and he who never rested all through this arduous and long march. Abu Jihad, we will keep our pledge and our oath. The pledge and the oath are that the revolution will continue and that its uprising will continue with the same firm manner, faith, and momentum. The oath is that we will pursue the march with a relentless determination and an unswerving will until the Palestinian flag flutters on the walls of Jerusalem, on the mosques of Jerusalem, and on the churches of Jerusalem. If the people decide to live, fate will inevitably respond to their wish. Gloomy days will certainly be dispelled and the shackles will certainly be broken.

As for you, O my beloved ones and kinfolk in the occupied homeland and in the diaspora, the comrades in the revolution, and those of you in all the positions of the struggle and the revolution who had loved Abu Jihad, we say to you with all determination and faith and with a resounding voice that the convoys of martyrs are beacons that guide our course on the road to Palestine and that their pure blood is a responsibility that we assume and a debt we have to pay. Debts must be settled and cannot be deferred. Let us escalate our revolution and our blessed uprising. Let us scorch the earth under the feet of the occupiers.

Let us make the earth erupt in volcanoes and violence. Let us proceed toward further victories, steadfastness, and faith toward final victory and toward feats that exhale the fragrance of the souls of our righteous martyrs which are immersed with the pure blood of our wounded, and which are replete with the sufferings of our detainess in the jails of the occupiers. Let us scorch the earth under the feet of the barbaric and fascist invaders. This is the decision of the revolution and the revolutionaries and the decision of jihad and the mujahidin, as well as the decision of free and honest men. This is the decision of our children, women, men, and elders. Let us tread on our wounds and embrace the skies for more sacrifices and victories.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If a wound hath touched you, be sure a similar wound hath touched the others. Such days of varying fortunes we give to men and men by turns: that God may know those

that believe and that He may take to Himself from your ranks martyr-witnesses to truth. [Koranic verse] Revolution until victory. Your brother, Abu 'Ammar.

Habash on Funeral

JN181431 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Interview with PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash by an unidentified correspondent on 18 April—place not given; recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr George Habash: We have learned that Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] will be buried in Damascus instead of Amman as first scheduled. What are the reasons for this change?

[Habash] According to my information, I think this decision was taken by President al-Asad personally. Naturally, as you know, the family of the deceased—his father and brothers—are in Damascus. What is important is the significant political meaning of this topic in particular. The question which has always preoccupied us since the uprising was: How can the uprising be utilized politically?

Utilizing the uprising politically depends in the first place on our kinfolk in the occupied territories in terms of the continuation and escalation of the uprising and the maintenance of national unity during the uprising. However, the uprising was in need of a national Arab incubator so it could be really utilized on the national level. We hope that this step, that is, Syria's agreement to bury Abu Jihad's body in Syria and to allow the Palestinian leaders to attend the funeral, will be a step along this road.

[Question] Dr Habash, holding the funeral in Damascus means the arrival of Palestinian leaders there. We have also learned that President Hafiz al-Asad has agreed to the arrival of these leaders, including Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

[Habash] Yes, and my information says so, too.

[Question] Who among the Palestinian leaders will then attend the funeral?

[Habash] The Executive Committee members and all the Palestinian leaders who wish to attend the funeral.

[Question] Do you think the presence of the Palestinian leaders in Syria will lead to the resumption of dialogue between the PLO and Syrian officials?

[Habash] I cannot be 100 percent sure, but it will pave the way for it. It is difficult for me to believe this decision was taken without considering its political meaning. You and all listeners may recall that at the beginning of the uprising the PFLP said the biggest gift we can present to our kinfolk in the occupied territories is the restoration of normal relations between the PLO and Syria. We hope the Syrian leadership has decided to present this gift to our kinfolk in the occupied territories and I believe they deserve this. Even if dialogue does not take place directly, this step has its political meaning. Naturally, I expect and even think it is likely that such a dialogue will take place.

[Question] Dr Habash, we know the immediate reaction to the assassination of Abu Jihad was the escalation of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories. What, in your opinion, will be the impact of his assassination in the long run?

[Habash] What is important is that the enemy should know that the uprising is the revolution of a people, the revolution of all the Palestinian masses. It will not be affected by the assassination of any leader. We, of course, respect the great role brother Abu Jihad used to play. However, the coming days will prove the uprising was the revolution of the Palestinian masses. All know that the unified leadership of the uprising is basically in the occupied territories. Those of us abroad extend support to it. Consequently, the fate of the uprising does not hinge upon us abroad. The uprising and its continuation depend on the leadership of the uprising in the occupied territories.

[Question] Western press reports underlined the role Abu Jihad played in taking charge of the uprising and went so far as to say it would be very difficult to replace him. What is your opinion?

[Habash] Brother Abu Jihad played a very big role. The Palestinian and Arab masses should be aware of the big role played by brother Abu Jihad. However, the Palestinian people are greater than any of their leaders. These people know how to produce one leadership after another and one cadre after another so the uprising will continue and achieve its political objective represented in the slogan of freedom and independence, the slogan of an independent Palestinian state whose capital is Jerusalem, God willing.

Abu Nidal Vows Vengeance

NC181759 Paris AFP in English 1753 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Beirut, April 18 (AFP)—The head of the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), a breakaway faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has vowed to avenge the murder of PLO military commander Abu Jihad, an FRC statement said here Monday.

Abu Nidal, who as head of the FRC has been condemned to death by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, made the pledge in a telephone conversation with Abu Jihad's widow. Abu Jihad, whose real name was Khalil al-Wazir, was murdered Saturday in Tunis by an Israeli commando unit, well informed sources in Israel said Monday.

"The assassins will soon pay with their blood for the tears shed over our great martyr," the FRC statement cited Abu Nidal as saying to Abu Jihad's widow. Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri al-Banna, reportedly decribed the slain PLO official as a "great chief" who deployed efforts "to reinforce the armed struggle and to preserve the political line and unity of Fatah."

Abu Jihad was Mr. 'Arafat's deputy for military affairs and had led the Al-'Asifah (storm) forces of Fatah—the PLO's mainstream group.

The FRC had issued a call Saturday for the reunification of Fatah, shortly after Abu Jihad's assassination.

'Arafat To Miss Funeral

NC190827 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has said 'Arafat will not take part in the funeral procession of Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, in Damascus. He thus ruled out the possibility of a reconciliation between 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

In a statement to REUTER in Tunis today, while Abu Jihad's corpse was being moved to the airport to be taken to Damascus, Abu Sharif said: 'Arafat will not go to Damascus.

PNC Speaker Will Not Attend

JN191123 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih said in Amman today that he will not attend the funeral of Khalil al-Wazir, the deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces. He said his failure to leave for Damascus is due to conflicting reports about the arrival of Al-Wazir's body and the time of the burial, as well as the lack of arrangements, such as security measures, in light of the increasing Israeli threats to liquidate the cadres of the PLO leadership.

Body of Abu Jihad Leaves Tunis for Damascus

LD191159 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1119 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Tunis 19 Apr KUNA—The plane carrying the body of the commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolutionary Forces Khalil al-Wazir, "Abu Jihad," left Tunis for Damascus today where the martyr will be buried tomorrow.

Informed Palestinian sources have told KUNA that the body of the martyr was accompanied by a delegation representing the PLO Executive Committee led by Faruq Qaddumi, "Abu al-Lutf," head of the PLO Political Department, a number of officials from the Fatah Movement, and the martyr's family. [passage omitted]

2 Mosad Groups Reportedly Arrested in Baghdad

JN180654 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Apr p 1

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Text] Amman—PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih said that two Mosad groups were arrested in Baghdad recently where they were planning to assassinate a number of Palestinian leaders.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that the two groups are among the sabotage terrorist groups assigned by Mosad to assassinate Palestinian leaders, among which was the one that assassinated martyr Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, in Tunis 2 days ago.

He said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat informed him over the telephone yesterday that prominent Palestinian leaders are under threat of assassination by Mosad.

Palestinian Deportees Interviewed on 'Uprising'

JN151840 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1554 GMT 15 Apr 88

["Second part" of an interview with "Palestinians recently deported from Israeli occupied territory" conducted by an unidentified Damascus television reporter and carried within Damascus Radio's "Palestine Broadcast"; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Quqah] Khalil Ibrahim al-Quqah, from Gaza, the Al-Shati' camp. I work as a teacher with the UNRWA. [passage indistinct] There is no doubt that the uprising, just as the brothers have said, expresses rejection of the status quo. Two main factors or motives were behind the eruption of this uprising. The first was the maintenance of our status as refugees for over 40 years, a journey of sorrow, fragmentation, rupture, and destitution in which we used to run after our livelihood at one time, a secure dwelling place at another, and preserving our dignity many times.

The second factor that gave rise to this uprising is our direct suffering over a 20-year period of occupation, during which the people have experienced direct humiliation and daily degradation of the dignity of the Arab individual, the Palestinian individual, and the Muslim individual in the occupied territories.

Over this period, this individual's humanity and existence have been humiliated. Everybody on this earth has dignity and this is the last thing that man can abandon or relinquish. There are other factors that I cannot enumerate. The people in the occupied territories have had to

tackle these factors, which were initiated and nurtured by the entity's authorities. The effective factor that ignited this uprising is firsthand experience of the effect of the occupation. It is the offspring of semi-daily uprisings initiated over the past 20 years, the offspring of an interrupted shedding of blood over a period longer than 20 years, and the offspring of uprisings initiated at the universities in the occupied territories—in Gaza, Bi'r Zayt, and Nabulus.

The youths are rallying their resources to reject the wicked status quo which has been imposed on the people. The occupation authorities have chosen to make their presence felt. When you sleep, the ghost of the occupation is there. When you head for your worksite, the occupation authorities chase you. Everywhere—even as I said, when you are asleep—the presence of the occupation is felt. The occupation has chosen to make you feel its presence, its heavy, inciting, and provocative presence. All these factors contributed to the crystallization of an idea enshrined by a rejection of a return to the period that preceded the eruption of the uprising.

When the people initiated their uprising, if I am allowed to use the term, they had in mind the ugly ghost, the cutting claws, and the bogey that had been embedded that a return to life as it had been lived before the eruption of the uprising was a slow, apathetic death on the sidewalks of life. How can a people who have come to feel that death helps preserve their dignity return to live a type of life rejected by the lowest types of creatures on the face of the earth?

As regards the continuation of the uprising, what has already been said constitutes one of the motives behind this continuation. As the brothers have said, I would like to reiterate that the uprising is like a river that has pushed aside all psychological barriers separating all strata of our people. This uprising has left our people at the disposal of many hands, but united. They are all directed to hit one party. This is the most beautiful thing created by the uprising. I would like to also reiterate—and I dare to face all those who challenge me—that the leadership of this uprising lies in all fetuses who died in their mothers' wombs due to their inhalation of gas and also in all old men who are about to die. Our people are the leadership. We cannot say that the leadership is located somewhere. This would be unfair and in correct. It would als be tantamout to an injustice to other parties. To be fair, it is correct to say that all of our people are the leaders and that all of our people are staging this uprising.

[Reporter] Dear brother, what do you have to say to the kinfolk inside the occupied territories?

[Al-Quqah] We would like to address them saying: How sweet death is for the sake of regaining the dignity of a nation—the dignity that has been lost for 40 years! We would also like to tell them that deportation is the twin of death, that uprooting is the twin of death. However, we would like to reiterate to them that we are the traveling oranges of Palestine and that the tree remains in Palestine.

We would like to tell them that we are the olive oil that is burned to give light, while the roots of the olive tree are still there. The roots of this tree go deep inside the earth, so deep it can triumph over all the defeatists, the bargainers, and the conspiracies being hatched against this nation, this civilization, and this people who have rich traditions.

[Reporter] You are one of the citizens with firsthand experience of the events of the uprising, is that right?

[Al-Quqah] I experienced the uprising for approximately 10 or 11 days.

[Reporter] You were imprisoned most of the time?

[Al-Quqah] The uprising began on 8 or 9 [December 1987]. I was arrested on 29 or 28 [December 1987].

[Reporter] In general, how do you view the Syrian stand?

[Al-Quqah] As a matter of fact, through the [Al-Quds] radio, the Syrians gave a wide coverage of the uprising. We saw the celebrations and speech rallies held and heard the speeches that enabled our people to make their stands heard. In general, we salute all those who said yes to the uprising through the radio to bolster this people's uprising.

Algeria

Reportage on Hijack Situation 18-19 Apr

Remains on Tarmac

LD180609 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] The hijacked Kuwaiti aircraft is still on the tarmac at Houari Boumedienne International Airport for the 6th day. Five meetings were held yesterday between the hijackers and the Algerian negotiators. The last of these meetings ended at 0315 (local time) this morning.

'Deadlock' in Negotiations

LD181540 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1402 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Algiers, 18 Apr [KUNA]—The pirates of the Kuwaiti airliner, which was hijacked on 14 April, and which is still grounded at Houari Boumedienne Airport, have asked the Algerian authorities to carry out an outside maintenance check on some of the plane's engines.

Despite allegations made yesterday concerning the imminent arrival of an important personality to Algiers to take part in the current negotiations with the hijackers, the probability of the continuation of these negotiations outside Algeria is still valid, mainly because the deadlock in negotiations to find a positive solution to this tragedy seems to be absolute. [passage omitted]

Hijackers Request Food, Koran

LD182244 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] [Announcer] For the 6th successive day, the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner is still grounded on the tarmac of Houari Boumediene International Airport. Negotiations between the mediating Algerian delegation and the hijackers of the aircraft continue with the aim of attaining a peaceful solution that would satisfy both sides. The stages of the 14th day since the hijacking of the aircraft are presented to us directly by our colleague, Brahim Ziwach, from the airport:

[Ziwach] Peace be upon you. Two minutes ago, the Kuwaiti hostage released in Algiers, Mr Jum'a 'Abdullah al-Shati, boarded his airplane. The special plane that had brought the Kuwaiti delegation is preparing to leave Algiers, carrying Mr 'Abdullah al-Shati. He made a brief statement in which he expressed his joy at being in Algeria and at his release in this homeland, the homeland of 1 and 1/2 million martyrs. He is in excellent health.

At Houari Boumedienne International Airport, the Kuwaiti airliner is still grounded at its usual place. Today there was only one contact between an Algerian negotiator and the hijackers of the aircraft, which lasted 20 minutes. Also today, one of the hostages in the airplane, Mr Fadl al-Sabah, was allowed to recite a message to his family and the Kuwaiti Government in which, in a faint and weak voice, he implored the Kuwaiti Government to release the 17 detainees.

That was what happened in the last few hours. We will give you details in time, if there are any, of course. See you.

[Announcer] As a reminder, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, had a telephone conversation with Mr 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR. Reports say that this contact came in the context of the efforts currently made for ending of the crisis of the Kuwaiti aircraft.

News coming in a short while ago said that tonight the hijackers of the aircraft asked via the control tower for copies of the holy Koran and meals for the Suhur, [second and last meal of those who fast in Ramadan, taken before daybreak]

Released Hostage Departs

LD190240 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0210 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Algiers, 19 April, KUNA—The Kuwaiti national, Jum'a 'Abdallah al-Shati, who was held hostage on the Kuwait aircraft grounded now at Houari Boumedienne Airport and who was released last Thursday, is returning home this morning.

Mr Jum'a said in a statement to KUNA before boarding the special plane carrying him home that he was happy that his ordeal with the hijackers was over. He added that he was also happy to return to his homeland and expressed the hope to see the end of the ordeal of the hostages held captive now on board the Kuwaiti aircraft "Al Jabiriyah."

The Kuwaiti national also expressed his thanks and appreciation for the efforts of the Algerian Government which resulted in his release. He also thanked the Algerian doctors who looked after him and gave him medical care during his stay in one of the military hospitals.

Contact Resumed 19 Apr

LD190814 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Excerpts] At Houari Boumedienne International Airport, the hijack of the Kuwaiti aircraft enters its 17th day without any significant change in the situation. Contacts and great efforts were made during the past 6 days by the Algerian mediator with a view to lessening the tension that surrounded this affair before the aircraft arrived in Algeria. The efforts are also aimed at preventing the exploitation of this sad episode for sensational propaganda purposes.

So far, moderation, confidence, and dialogue have dominated the situation due to the eagerness to reach a peaceful settlement of the affair. During the past 24 hours the Algerian mediator made a few contacts with the hijackers while talks were still going on between the Algerian and Kuwaiti delegations. [passage omitted]

The Algerian Press Agency (APS) has just reported that at about 0712 local *time the hijackers, in a radio contact* with the control tower, asked for water supplies and for the plane to be cleaned. They also requested some Arabic and French papers, in addition to medicine.

Papers, Medicine Requested

LD191301 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] For the 6th day running the diverted Kuwaiti Boeing 747 remains grounded at Hourai Boumedienne International Airport. For the latest development we now join our correspondent at the airport, Dakkar:

Contacts between the Algerian delegation and the diverters of the Kuwaiti Boeing plane resumed this afternoon, as a dialogue between both sides took place from 1244 to 1304. This contact is the first one to take place today, following five rounds of negotiations yesterday.

This morning, we recorded a radio message between the plane and the control tower. The diverters have asked for today's Arab and foreign newspapers, and a quantity of medicine of an unspecified nature. However, it seems that the Algerian side knows the type of medicine requested; Dr Youcef Mehdi himself prescribed these medicines to some of the hostages when he examined them last Thursday. During the same radio message with the control tower, the diverters asked for some cleaners to be sent to clean the inside of the plane.

Everybody here at the airport is keeping the door of hope open, since negotiations are continuing at present either between the plane and the Algerian delegation, or between the Kuwaiti and Algerian delegations at Houari Boumedienne Airport's VIP lounge.

Statement 'Postponed'

LD191413 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] I have just this minute been brought a cable on the group that has hijacked a Kuwaiti Boeing to Algiers. I have just heard that the hijackers are announcing that they want to make a statement to the press. The hijackers have postponed the statement for the moment and they explain this by technical problems they say have taken place inside the plane.

Talks at 'Critical Point'

LD101421 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Algiers, 19 Apr (KUNA)—Sources close to the negotiations underway with the hijackers of the Kuwaiti passenger plane," Al-Jabiriyah," today believe it likely that the hijackers are awaiting instructions from abroad about the next step to take in this tragedy, which has been going on since the 5th of this month.

Meanwhile, some sources did not consider it unlikely that the hijackers "intend to break the record in the history of air piracy to exploit that ideologically and politically" in the future.

And as the tragedy enters its 15th day all hopes for a relaxation that will end the crisis have disappeared, amid reports that the negotiations between the hijackers and the Algerians have reached a critical point.

Meanwhile, there is no possibility of finding out what is going on from the Algerians. Other sources have also been uninformative or silent, leaving everyone here to wait with all kinds of speculations and interpretations.

Observers have appreciated highly the offer of the [Kuwaiti] National Football League chairman and members to replace the hostages.

Rumors are circulating here that the Algerian authorities' step to evict the journalists from the hotels and the airport VIP lounge "could be expressing an indirect desire to invite the press delegations to leave Algeria and to end the crisis afterwards [words indistinct] the contents of the negotiations."

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From Visit to Jordan 15 Apr

NC151535 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—President and Mrs Muhammad Husni Mubarak and members of an accompanying delegation returned to Cairo from 'Aqaba this evening at the end of a 2-day visit to Jordan. During the visit President Mubarak held talks with His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan on developments in the Middle East situation and current Arab issues.

Speaks on Jordanian-PLO Ties

NC151646 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Upon his return to Cairo, President Mubarak stated that his talks with King Husayn focused on the possibility of making progress in resolving the Middle East issue, with particular stress on

the initiative of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and the approach which should be taken in this regard to solve problems which may arise.

President Mubarak noted Shultz' announcement that he will be coming back to the region, asserting that Shultz' return is a must, because the matter is too complicated to be solved in one, two, or three tours. He said: Shultz must have discerned this and will come again to meet with the parties concerned.

The president emphasized the need for the PLO to reach an agreement with Jordan, saying: Our brothers in the PLO must, first of all, agree among themselves, and then with Jordan, to leave no room for differences and to avoid agreeing on one hand to the international conference but disagree on the other about the course of negotiations.

The president was asked whether there is an Arab approach to resolving the issue of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner. He said: We are all trying to help. We are ready to render our services if requested. He pointed out that the aircraft is in an Arab state which is capable of giving all necessary services. However, he said, we will not hesitate to offer our services.

Asked about Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Egypt, President Mubarak said there are continuing consultations between Egypt and the Soviet Union. He said that an invitation to visit Egypt has been extended to Shevardnadze and expressed his pleasure at the expected visit.

Responding to another question, the president expressed his belief that a meeting will be held between King Husayn of Jordan and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The president explained that King Husayn has actually invited 'Arafat. However, he stressed the need for the PLO to reach agreement first so that an agreement can then be reached with Jordan.

On Egyptian efforts to bring about a rapprochement between Jordan and the PLO, President Mubarak said that he and King Husayn are making efforts with the PLO and that everybody is making efforts to serve common interests.

Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives 16 Apr

Met by Sidqi

LD170040 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Mr Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister, arrived this evening in Cairo to carry out an official 3-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt at the invitation of his opposite number, Dr 'Atif Sidqi, who welcomed the prime minister on his arrival at Cairo International Airport. Sidqi was flanked by members of the Egyptian Government, the two countries' ambassadors, and ambassadors of foreign countries accredited to Cairo.

On his arrival at Cairo airport, Mr Hedi Baccouche made a statement to the journalists, at the beginning of which he explained that this is the first official visit by a Tunisian official to the Arab Republic of Egypt since the resumption and normalization of relations between the two countries. He added that he was conveying a written message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Mr Hedi Baccouche explained that his visit to Cairo will be an opportunity to go over with 'Atif Sidqi issues of common concern and the fields of cooperation between the two countries.

In reply to a question concerning the killing of Abu Jihad, Mr Hedi Baccouche remarked that he had heard this terrible news with sadness, because Abu Jihad was among the most reliable Palestinian leaders. He pointed out that this assassination comes at a time when we are compelled to support the Palestinian uprising in which Abu Jihad believed deeply and worked for. He stressed that Tunisia is exerting, and will exert, all efforts to find the perpetrators of this terrible crime.

Yesterday afternoon, Mr Hedi Baccouche held a press conference in Khartoum, during which he announced the formation of a Sudanese-Tunisian higher committee chaired by the Tunisian prime minister and the Sudanese prime minister. He explained that an agreement in this respect was concluded between the two sides during the two delegations' working session yesterday morning. He pointed out that it had also been agreed to form a technical committee which will determine the fields of cooperation between the two countries and prepare the technical files to this effect in preparation for the meeting of the Tunisian-Sudanese higher committee.

He further said that Mr Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Sudanese prime minister, will chair the Sudanese side during the next meeting of this committee, which will be held in Tunis. He added that he had handed a written message from the president to the Sudanese chairman of the State Council, Mr Ahmad 'Ali Mirghani, transmitted the greetings of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to him, and discussed with him issues of common concern. [passage omitted]

Received by Mubarak

NC161909 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and his accompanying delegation at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this evening. The meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. President Mubarak later hosted a dinner banquet in honor of the Tunisian prime minister and his accompanying delegation.

Delivers Message

NC170647 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2246 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche disclosed that he had delivered a written message to President Mubarak from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He added that this meeting was an opportunity to review bilateral relations which, he noted, are developing in an encouraging manner. He affirmed that the excellent relations between Presidents Mubarak and Ben Ali will be enhanced further at forthcoming meetings to the benefit of both countries.

The Tunisian prime minister further pointed out that during his meeting with President Mubarak, they had reviewed international relations and issues of concern to all the Arabs, including the Palestinian uprising and the continuing efforts toward Arab unity. He said: We have discussed ways of achieving fruitful cooperation among all Arab countries, especially since Egypt enjoys a high standing in the Arab world and has a role in defending the Arab nation, particularly with regard to the Palestinian issue. Egypt has a leading role in all these issues and we have talked about all the points frankly and sincerely. Baccouche expressed his belief that, through their cooperation, both Egypt and Tunisia can contribute to the progress of the Arab nation and to resolving its problems. He said: We will continue our talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and with the Egyptian Cabinet members and officials.

Replying to a question on the similarity between Egypt and Tunisia with regard to the multiparty system, Baccouche said: After 7 November, we guaranteed full freedom to the parties so that they could revive. [passage omitted]

Baccouche announced that President Mubarak has been invited to pay an official visit to Tunis and that the Tunisian people are looking forward to this visit.

Commenting on the assassination of the Palestinian leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Baccouche voiced his utmost regret at the assassination of Abu Jihad, who was considered one of the Palestinian revolution's great leaders, and noted that it was a great loss for the Palestinian revolution and the Arabs as a whole. The Tunisian prime minister pointed out that the Tunisian Government is exerting all of its efforts to discover the culprits, who will be punished. He added: We will act once we are certain of the identity of the criminals as this hideous crime cannot go unpunished.

Joint Committee Established

NC171600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Talks between Egypt and Tunisia took place at the Al-'Urubah Palace in Cairo before noon today. The Egyptian side in the talks was led by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the Tunisian side by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche. [passage omitted]

Following 3 hours of talks, Dr Sidqi stated that it had been decided to set up a joint higher committee at the prime ministerial level. A number of subcommittees will be formed under this committee to deal with the subjects under discussion. The prime minister affirmed that there will be further coordination and cooperation between Egypt and Tunisia on various levels, particularly in view of the decision to set up this committee. He explained that experience has proven that this is the most suitable method to promote and strengthen joint action.

Concluding, Dr Sidqi again welcomed the visit of Prime Minister Baccouche and his delegation and wished them a pleasant stay in Cairo.

For his part, Tunisian Prime Minister Baccouche stated that the talks were characterized by trust and comprehensiveness, heralding good prospects for both countries. He said that the talks had dealt with various issues of interest to the two governments and peoples, affirming that they showed an identity of views which will facilitate coordination on these issues.

He said that they had reviewed aspects of bilateral cooperation in the economic, trade, cultural, information, and educational fields.

Baccouche said that the joint Egyptian-Tunisian higher committee will meet alternately in Cairo and Tunis to discuss the meetings of the subcommittees and executive formulas on various aspects of bilateral cooperation [passage omitted]

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the two sides reviewed the main Arab, African, and international issues. The meeting dealt largely with the Palestinian issue and the uprising in the occupied territories, he said. The two sides exchanged views on developments in the Palestinian issues.

He said that President Husni Mubarak's political ideas on the uprising and the subsequent U.S. activity, including the results of U.S. Secretary of State George shultz' tour in the area, were explained.

He said that views were also exchanged on developments and events in the Palestinian arena, coordination between Egypt and its Arab sister states, and coordination between Egypt and Jordan.

Baccouche praised the wise policy which President Husni Mubarak is pursuing in this regard.

The information minister said that the two sides discussed the Iraq-Iran war. There was an identity of views and agreement on the call for peace and efforts to end

this war and the bloodshed between the two countries, as well as support for Iraq's call for peace and its stand in defending its sovereignty and repulsing aggression.

He noted that the two sides also exchanged views on Arab relations in North Africa and the Arab Gulf and on African relations. He said that there was an identity of views on these issues. [passage omitted]

Makes 'Predeparture Statement'

NC191150 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche has praised Egypt's wise policy under President Husni Mubarak's leadership, as well as Egypt's leading role in the Arab world. The Tunisian prime minister thanked Egypt's government and people for the hospitality accorded him during his visit to Egypt, and said it was not surprising that there should be such hospitality among brothers.

In a predeparture statement today, Baccouche pointed out that his meeting with President Mubarak had enabled the two leaders to exchange views and review the situation and developments in the Arab area, as well as the two countries' stands on international and regional issues.

The Tunisian prime minister went on to say: I appreciate President Mubarak's wisdom, sound opinions, farsightedness, and efforts to overcome anything that might undermine Arab solidarity.

Baccouche said he hoped there would be further bilateral trade cooperation between Egypt and Tunisia in the near future. He added: We have taken very important steps which will be followed by further contacts and consultations and an exchange of views in support of the two countries' stands. This is particularly necessary since we face foreign challenges that seek to undermine our efforts and development plans. We must all cooperate to confront the various pressures that are being brought to bear on us with the cooperation of certain foreign powers.

Departs 19 Apr

NC190940 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0918 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, along with the delegation accompanying him, left Cairo for home this morning at the end of a 4-day visit to Egypt. The Tunisian prime minister was received by President Husni Mubarak during the visit.

Mubarak Discusses Domestic, Foreign Issues

NC170625 Cairo MENA in English 2219 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, April 16 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met at the Police Academy headquarters here this evening with students of Asyut University of Upper Egypt and Police Academy cadets within the framework of their sports event.

Attending were Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi and a number of deputy premiers and ministers, including interior minister, Major-General Zaki Badr.

Education Minister Fathi Surur, Asyut University Rector Dr 'Abd al-Raziq Hasan, Police Academy Chief Major-General Faruq al-Qassas and members of the teaching staff of the academy and the various faculties of Asyut University were attending. [passage omitted]

Speaking after the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif quoted President Mubarak as having explained that the emergency law is not the main concern, but that ensuring the livelihood, providing job openings for graduates and seeking to proceed in steps along the path towards economic reform are.

The president, wondering that there are those who are bidding high on the emergency law, said they are forgetting, however, that emergency existed in Egypt over scores of years of its history. The president underlined the incomparability of the law that was applied before with the presently-applied emergency law as modified since he took over.

"God knows the powers that are at work against Egypt. God also knows the difficult circumstances that are facing Egypt and requiring arduous work," the president said, indicating it is the citizen, his security and his safety that will be reaping the fuits of a stability shake. President Mubarak said that despite all excesses and abuse unacceptable to the people, he was enduring for the sake of democracy and its future.

With respect to those who are calling for repealing the emergency law, the president said they have to know that the emergency law is for preserving citizen and the homeland security. Expounding that the emergency law provides protection, the president said: "It is a state responsibility to safeguard homeland security and stability. The state must have all means of maintaining this stability."

President Mubarak, dealing with the Muscat Arab Funds Conference, praised the attitude of Arab brothers. "It was an honourable attitude. The Sultanate of Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have supported Egypt's readmittance to the Arab Funds.

Whereas it was natural that Libya and Syria should make a reservation, it was strange that Algeria did. It was stranger, however, that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) should make a reservation. It was a reservation on an economic issue affecting the people's economy, and, subsequently, its food. This attitude has no explanation," the president said.

Cautioning against rash acts, the president said: "We have to adhere to values and principles which would maintain the interests of the people. We must not follow in the footsteps of those who are acting in a way that is divorced from national responsibility. Egypt is doing its best for the Palestinian cause, and the leadership in Egypt is moving on the Arab and international planes." According to the president, those who are still invoking the era of chants and emotionalisms are having no room.

The president wondered why an Egyptian party tried to proceed to the Egyptian-Israeli border to repeat chants at border barbed wiring. On Tabah, a strip of Egyptian Sinai territory, the president said: "Egypt's right (to Tabah) is a historic right. We are waiting for arbitration (results)."

Regarding the ability to develop the U.S. Middle East peace initiative, the president said: "This is contingent upon coordination of our Arab attitudes."

While reviewing Iraq-Iran war developments and showing Arab Gulf states' capability of defending their sovereignty, the president said: "Egypt offers its expertise and considers Gulf security part of Egypt's security."

Insofar as concerns the price rise, the president cited resources, expenditure, the terrible population growth rate, the international price rise and the effort exerted to check the prices' growth.

Mubarak Sends Condolences to PLO's 'Arafat

NC162146 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Condolence cable from President Husni Mubarak to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; dated 16 April]

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman,

I received with utmost regret the news about the painful incident in which struggler Khalil al-Wazir was assassinated by irresponsible individuals who have breached all spiritual values, principles, and ideals. Please accept my sincere condolences. I pray that God's mercy be upon the departed.

Your brother, Muhammad Husni Mubarak

Ghali Condemns Assassination

NC160909 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has declared Egypt's strong condemnation of the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian forces, this morning. He said: We condemn this criminal act against the Palestinian leadership. Egypt declares its solidarity with the PLO in its struggle to regain its national legitimate rights.

'Abd al-Majid Cables 'Arafat

NC171550 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abdal-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent a condolence cable today to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in which he expressed his condemnation of the assassination of struggler Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces.

The cable said: Brother struggler, PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat:

I received with extreme sorrow the news of the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces and Fatah Central Committee member. While expressing my denunciation and condemnation of this crime, I am certain that the brave march of the Palestinian people will proceed along its path, heedless of all acts of terrorism and treachery, knowing that such blows will only make it stronger and more determined. While euologizing Abu Jihad to the Arab world as a veteran Palestinian struggler who sacrificed himself for the sake of his people and his homeland, I sympathize with you, Brother struggler, and share your belief that our martyrs represent the banners of this nation and its victory. "Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of their lord." [Koranic verse]

Commentary Views Assassination

NC171610 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "A Conspiracy Against Peace"]

[Text] There is no doubt that the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the PLO's second-in-command and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, was a premeditated operation. The perpetrators of the scheme are highly specialized in dirty operations in which only some professional intelligence services, including Israel's Mossad, excel.

The choice of Abu Jihad as the target of this operation was not made at random. He was a target selected with the utmost care to achieve extremely important political and security objectives. A quick glance at the operation could reveal who would be the first to benefit from the assassination of Abu Jihad.

1. There is a Palestinian uprising in progress. This uprising, by all standards of struggle, constitutes an act of revolt that has turned all Israeli security calculations and political schemes upside down. This uprising represents neither an act of terrorism nor a form of organized demonstrations, but rather mass disobedience by a people who can no longer tolerate the political, economic, and social status quo that Israel wants to impose by the force of occupation. Israeli public opinion holds its intelligence service responsible for this uprising and views its failure to predict the uprising as far worse than its inability to predict the October war of 1973. The military commentator for the Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ, a former intelligence officer, has asked angrily how three intelligence groups, whose duty is to know what is going on in Israel's backyard, could fail to pick up any signal of a new phenomenon extending its roots among the Palestinians.

2. This uprising, with its well-organized and planned tactics, has forced Israel's security forces and even the Israeli Army to use inhuman means of violence. Many of Israel's friends in the United States and Europe have said that these methods make Germany's Gestapo and the Nazi storm troopers look like children in terms of the abuse of human dignity. Thus, we find that there was deep sympathy from international public opinion toward the uprising and its heroes: youngsters and angry mothers.

3. Regarding the U.S. moves in the region toward reaching a settlement, we believe that the United States is quite eager to resolve the Middle East issue and that the Americans, with their proposals and continuing efforts, aim to secure peace in the region. In spite of all the obstacles that Israel has placed before the U.S. efforts, George Shultz has not lost the desire to continue his efforts. This is when the idea of assassinating Abu Jihad, the brains behind the military operations inside the occupied territories and even inside Israel, surfaced. He was described by the Israeli Army's official spokesman as Israel's No 1 enemy.

Naturally, the assassination of Abu Jihad will achieve several important goals. First, it will confuse the uprising and cause it to deviate in uncoordinated directions. It will also force it into uncalculated operations, thus giving the Israeli forces a fair chance to finish off the uprising in the absence of any international sympathy. Second, it will increase the influence of the Palestinian hardliners on the political level against efforts to reach a peaceful settlement, thus pushing Palestinian extremists into carrying out terrorist counteroperations. This would certainly cause confusion, increase the attention to terrorism in general, and depict those who supported the uprising in the first place as having made a hasty judgment on something they do not fully understand, as Shamir put it in his meeting with members of Jewish organizations during his recent visit to Washington. Third, it will push the current U.S. Administration into giving up on the peace process, abandoning the peace proposals, and leaving everything up to next administration.

Of course, anything is possible, and the future full of risks. But one must realize: If you play with fire, you are going to get burned.

AL-SAFIR Notes Israeli List of Targets

NC190744 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 Apr 88 p 9

[Text] Cairo, AL-SAFIR—According to informed sources in Cairo, a 22-man Israeli intelligence service team arrived in Cairo yesterday to reinforce security measures at the Israeli Embassy and provide additional protection for Israeli mission members as a precaution against any Palestinian retaliation for the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

The same sources said that the Cairo Airport authorities refused to allow the Israeli team to enter Egypt wearing military uniforms. Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason had to intercede over the issue.

Furthermore, the sources pointed out that 7 months ago the Egyptian security organs gave the PLO leaders a list drawn up by the Israeli intelligence service of the names of the PLO and Fatah officials to be assassinated on the instruction of the Israeli Cabinet.

Al-Baz Returns From U.S., Makes Statement

NC190444 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo this evening from New York following a 1-week visit to the United States.

Upon his arrival, Dr al-Baz stated that the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) will further inflame the situation in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and will not end the uprising, as Israel believes.

Dr al-Baz said: We call on the United States not to give any party to the Middle East conflict assurances that affect the essence of the settlement, without also offering the same assurances to the other party. Otherwise, the U.S. Administration's role as a partner to the peace process would be upset.

He added: We ask the present U.S. Administration, as we had asked the previous administrations, to refrain from giving Israel any guarantees or assurances regarding the Palestinian issue or the terms of a peaceful settlement. We still recall the negative experience resulting from the assurances which former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger gave in September 1975; namely, that the United States would not recognize the PLO or conduct any negotiations with it. This has tied the hands of successive U.S. administrations.

Dr al-Baz said that during his visit he had held several contacts with officials of the U.S. Administration on bilateral relations and the latest developments regarding the Middle East peace efforts. He added that his trip to the United States had focused more light on the various dimensions of the U.S. position and the developments that have taken place since Secretary of State George Shultz' last visit to the area. As a result, a comprehensive assessment of the situation has been made which will be presented to President Husni Mubarak.

Ghali 'Regrets' U.S. Veto of UN Resolution

NC161017 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has declared that Egypt regrets the U.S. veto at the Security Council of a draft resolution condemning Israel for continuing its repressive actions against Palestinians in the occupied Arab land and for expelling them from their occupied territory. Ghali said that Egypt views such behavior as an obstacle on the road to peace, which Egypt is seeking to achieve.

'Abd al-Majid on Iran, Al-Faw Operation

NC181528 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—Dr Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has urged Iran to abandon its policy of harassing and provoking others. In statements to reporters today he described this policy as unpeaceful and unwise.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that there have been numerous manifestations of this Iranian policy recently, both in its role in the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane and reinstituting its policy of mining the Gulf's international waters and harassing other countries vessels and installations.

Responding to a question, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: "Iran's renewed mining of the Gulf led to the damaging of a U.S. warship last Thursday. Iran has thus sparked the beginning of a new wave of armed confrontation in the region."

Asked about Egypt's position on current military operations in Al-Faw, Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that the Al-Faw peninsula is Iraqi territory, and it is fraternal Iraq's duty to seek to liberate its territory. He added that if Iraq has resorted to the use of force to defend occupied parts of its national soil, that right is guaranteed by all international charters, particularly as Iran still refuses to respond to the international consensus represented by UN Security Council Resolution 598. He noted that Iran still refuses to halt military operations, withdraw to international broders, exchange POWS, or embark on a peace process.

In reply to a question on the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, Dr 'Abd al-Majid reasserted that Egypt condemns all forms of terrorism and believes that terrorist acts have only negative results.

He said that Egypt has expressed, through President Husni Mubarak, its condolences to the Palestinian people. He added that Abu Jihad's assassination is a great loss to the Palestinian struggle movement but affirmed that this struggle will continue, undeterred by such assassinations.

In conclusion, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed the need to distinguish between legitimate resistance and a peoples right to live and reject occupation and terrorist operations.

'Abd al-Majid on Conference, Arab League HQ

NC181018 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0912 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reiterated Egypt's view that an international peace conference is the only way of settling the Palestinian problem and that the PLO should participate in this conference. Egypt, he said, believes that the PLO has an undisputed right to name its own delegates to such a conference.

In an interview published today in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA', 'Abd al-Majid said that current international interest in the Palestinian issue is the result of the Palestinian uprising, noting that the U.S. initiative is an attempt to bring about a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

Discussing the Tabah issue, 'Abd al-Majid said he is confident that the ruling, which will be pronounced in August, will be in Egypt's favor. He pointed out that Egypt has a strong case and that it has produced documents and facts to back it up.

'Abd al-Majid described Egyptian-Sudanese relations as very special, strong, and solid. He said that the Nile waters are not a cause for dispute with Sudan or any other country. He denied that Egypt and Tunisia have discussed the return of the Arab League headquarters to

Egypt. However, he said that the presence of the headquarters in Tunisia contravenes the league's charter, which stipulates in its second clause that Cairo is the permanent seat of the Arab League's headquarters.

Saudi Minister on Meeting With Mubarak

NC171703 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Saudi Finance Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl has expressed pleasure with today's meeting with President Husni Mubarak. He said he had conveyed to the president greetings from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

In a statement after the meeting, Aba al-Khayl said he had conveyed to the president an amicable message from King Fahd which conveyed the king's desire to reactivate the fraternal relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia as soon as possible. He added that he had received guidelines from President Mubarak on the topics to be discussed with his Egyptian colleagues with a view to expanding bilateral economic relations. He referred in this respect to the existence of old agreements between the two countries, noting that his talks in Egypt will deal with reactivating them. He pointed out that a Saudi investment company had been established in Egypt in the past but had never started functioning, adding that his discussions in Egypt would consider making this company active.

The Saudi finance minister concluded by saying that the aim of his visit to Cairo is to discuss the promotion and expansion of economic relations between the two countries, and commented that President Mubarak's guidelines fall into this category.

Ends Visit, Departs

NC180507 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, Saudi minister of finance and national economy, departed Cairo for home this evening following a visit of several hours to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The Saudi minister was seen off at Cairo airport by Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, and As'ad Abu al-Nasr, Saudi ambassador in Cairo.

Paper Urges U.S. To Reaffirm Position on 242

JN181031 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Apr 88 p 7

[Editorial: "The Withdrawal Puzzle"]

[Text] If what was published by the U.S. press about a secret State Department report confirming Washington's pledge and commitment, since 1967, to the interpretation that the famous Security Council Resolution 242 adopted in 1967 means Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip is true, then one is puzzled. More than 20 years have lapsed since that resolution was adopted and that pledge was made without us sensing in all the talks that have been held throughout that period on various levels and on various occasions, any parallel, clear, and public U.S. commitment to achieve such a withdrawal immediately and without delay.

The only interpretation for such an absence is—as the report shows—that Israel has from the very beginning rejected what it termed the U.S. interpretation of the resolution, whereas many people had imagined that it was the United States itself that rejected such an interpretation in one form or another, or is at any rate stalling in declaring its clear stand on the matter. What confirms the report is that during President Carter's administration there were those who believed that withdrawal in such a form was at least a relevant issue. Cyrus Vance, U.S. secretary of state during the Carter Administration, in recent statements confirmed the truth and soundness of such a belief by saying that Resolution 242 meant complete withdrawal from the occupied territory in return for guaranteeing Israel's security by making minor and insignificant border adjustments.

That being the situation, the United States must decisively end all doubts or residue of doubt on that matter, and issue an official statement declaring its adherence to the interpretation it adopted and to which it committed itself in its correspondence with King Husayn in 1967, and perhaps in other later correspondence with him or with others. It must reaffirm that in future it will act only within the framework of such an interpretation, thus giving weight to the resolutions that adopted that principle from the beginning, particularly UN resolutions, and at the same time forming, with world support, a strong point of pressure on Israel.

The importance of such a statement can be seen from another angle: The United States itself is asking the PLO to accept the resolution as a prelude to any negotiations. Such an acceptance by the PLO is required to come at least in the form of "a declaration of intent" that has an official character that supercedes individual statements and that defines its stand firmly, categorically, and in a binding manner. However, that is exactly what the United States is required to do now, particularly as it does not need to make a new study of the matter but merely reaffirm a stand which, it is said, has been its stand for the past 20 years.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets FRG Parliamentary Delegation

LD191013 Tripoli JANA in English 0850 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received the German parliamentary delegation of the Green Peace movement [as received] headed by Albert Alfred.

Seminar on Terrorism Concludes With Resolutions

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Delegation

LD191007 Tripoli JANA in English 0851 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received the delegation of Denmark who attended the academic seminar on specifying the concept and types of terrorism. This delegation was led by Mr. B.A. Wusu, political economy lecturer, director of Denmark centre for the Mediterranean Sea Studies, Sec. Gen. of Denmark-Libyan Arab Friendship Society.

Jallud Meets Algerian

LD171637 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud yesterday received Mohamed Abada, the member of the Central Committee of the FLN, and the delegation in his company who took part in the international symposium on terrorism and its forms organised by the Permanent Secretariat of the Organisation of the Mediterranean Progressive Socialists. Present at the meeting was the Algerian ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah.

Official, Soviet Confer

LD161458 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The assistant secretary at the Secretariat of the General People's Congress met yesterday morning in Tripoli with 'Adred Lotalov', the envoy from the Foreign Relations' Department at the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party [name and title as received] and his accompanying delegation attending the scientific delegation seminar on international terrorism being organised by the Permanent Secretariat of the Progressive Socialists' Organisations in the Mediterranean states.

The Soviet delegation asked the assistant secretary to convey their greetings to the leader of the Great Al-Fatih revolution and to the Libyan Arab people.

Recommendations Issued

LD171118 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0739 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Apr (JANA)—Participants in the international seminar on international terrorism issued the following recommendations at the end of their meetings:

1. To contact the International Court of Justice and brief it on the resolutions and recommendations of this seminar.

2. To prepare a legal memorandum on the U.S. Administration's decision to close the PLO office.

3. To call for the transfer of the UN Headquarters from New York.

4. To call on the people to apply pressure on their countries to work for the cancellation of the veto right enjoyed by the UN Security Council five permanent member states.

5. To emphasize the establishment of a new international order in which manifestations of terrorism and oppression will disappear.

6. To enhance Gorbachev's initiative calling for the removal of bases and fleets from the Mediterranean regions.

7. To work toward the publication of the research and studies of this seminar before the end of this year.

The seminar participants issued the following resolutions:

—To set up a committee whose mission will be to contact the International Court of Justice and submit the statement and literature of this seminar on terrorism "Its motives and Dimensions" and to provide evidence, proof, and statements that stress the condemnation of the U.S. Administration following the closing down of the PLO office.

—To set up an institute for studies on Mediterranean issues. The committee will be responsible for laying down organizational and academic foundations to build a Mediterranean institute for research and studies that will benefit the goals of the organization of socialist-progressives of the Mediterranean region; —To set up an international committee under the name: The Initiative of Tripoli on the Security of the Mediterranean. The committee will be responsible for:

—Setting up the anti-imperialism, anti-Zionism, and antiracism international people's front;

—Promoting an international action that will consolidate peace and security in the Mediterranean;

—Striving for the establishment on a new international order through which an economic and social freedom may be achieved.

—Mobilizing the people of the Mediterranean to clean up this sea by removing all foreign military bases and fleets.

Arab, Soviet Envoys Summoned Over U.S. Attacks
LD182119 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison this evening summoned the ambassador of Algeria, the head of the Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic, and the ambassador of the Soviet Union to the Great Jamahiriyah. They were consulted over the U.S. military attacks in the Arab Gulf.

Jallud Addresses OAU Trade Union Meeting
LD110214 Tripoli JANA in English 1416 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 10, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud attended part of the proceedings of the opening session of the Organisation of African Unity trade union 11th session which began yesterday at the People's Hall in Tripoli within the context of the 15th anniversary of the organisation with the participation of over 40 countries and workers unions who are members of the organisation.

Major Jallud made a speech welcoming the participants and asserting the importance of the unity of African struggle and the freedom and independence of Africa as there is no freedom, no future and no alliance for Africa except that with itself. He pointed out that the world mass media are still dominated by colonialism and imperialism which are exploited to falsfy the truth and poison it with lies.

Major Jallud pointed to the major role which falls on African workers to play in the liberation of Africa as colonialism and imperialism is imposing intellectual and historical tricks which require workers solidarity and unity to thwart them and that issues must not be just ignored and be confined to speeches and statements but the role of African workers must be increased consistently so as to face up to the dangers and challenges threatening Africa as a result of the alliance of colonial and imperialist circles.

He made clear that the great Al-Fatih revolution is a gain for African masses and workers from the first moments of its coming as it was clear that it focussed its interest on African issues and its policies centered around Arab African struggle.

He pointed out that the aggression to which great Jamahiriyah was, and still, subject [to] is due to its firm stance towards the African causes and its struggle against the schemes aimed at the fragmentation of Africa and robbing its wealth and resources. He said the colonial and imperialist circles are still seeking to punish Great Jamahiriyah for its revolutionary and liberation stances towards African issues.

He added that Great Jamahiriyah fought in many African areas and provided arms and support. Jamahiriyah stands by the struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia and supports continuously African liberation movements but the imperialists, Zionists, reactionaries and fascists portrayed this backing for the African liberation movements as terrorist attempts and reversed the truth and falsified facts through the world mass media controlled by them and sought to distort our revolutionary, progressive and liberation stance. However we have confidence in ourselves and in the validity of our orientation; and this is our duty before our continent and the sacrifices made by the Libyan Arab people led by the great Al-Fatih revolution is the obligation of this people towards the cause of freedom and its bolstering and assertion on the African Continent and the world over. This is the pioneering role of the Libyan Arab people and its vital cause for which it is fighting continuously.

He said the African workers leaders must be aware of this reality and work towards correcting these falsehoods and showing the truth and stopping the distortion of our liberation and militant struggle.

Major Jallud warned against the attempts to tear up the African Continent asserting that that is a betrayal of African struggle and reactionary attempts fed by colonialism and Zionism to fragment the efforts of the continent directed to the elimination of its problems and turning to construction and development. He said we refuse any plot against the African countries for we are unionists and seek unity to all the peoples of Africa.

He stressed that the colonial circles, allied and African reaction, attempt to distort this fact and reverse realities and falsify the Libyan support and backing for freedom and independence.

Major Jallud urged the African workers, intellectuals and youths to be aware of this reality and expose the subversive role being undertaken by Western countries in Africa. He said that any victory realised on any part of Africa is a victory for all African workers and a victory for workers, oppressed and enslaved.

He said the workers are still living the meaningless day of first of May. We, he added, celebrate the real festival of workers on the first of September, the day of the workers liberation from slavery and exploitation. He urged the African workers to revise their view regarding the first of May and the falsehood it carries as it did not bring them anything new and did not solve their problems and their conditions are still the same as they were before with some attempts of pleasing them like granting them some allowances and privileges which did not bring them any lasting solution but they are laughable, hence they have to rebel against this situation and turn to the victories brought about by the real day of workers liberation the day of the great Fatih 1978 which transferred the workers from the category of slave wage earners to the world of free partners. This is the real and historical victory on

Al-Fatih 1978, it is the day of the liberation of African workers and world workers and the day the workers became able to obtain all the results of their efforts and the employer was brought to an end through the march on the factories and transforming themselves from enslaved wage earner into partners in management and production.

He said our brother African unionists must study these attempts and not to ridicule the attempts of each other and exchange views on each others attempts and to consider any victory for the workers in Africa a victory for all workers in Africa and the world over.

Major Jallud urged African workers and intellectuals to analyse what is taking place in Libya especially at workers level and carry out thorough studies and analyses of the dicta of the Jamahiriyah theory which came as a negation to the traditional system of government and to criticise whatever they wish if they saw any disorder between the theory and application. He asserted that what is taking place in Libya is a rebellion start by world workers whatever the exploiter may claim and the forces of repression and exploitation resist the day of victory is inevitable and nearer. [sentence as received]

At the end of the speech, Major Jallud declared that the enemy of the Arab nation and the African Continent is one. It is Zionism and racism asserting the inevitability of the victory of the Arab people in occupied Palestine and the people of South Africa against racial discrimination.

A number of speeches were delivered by the secretary of the general congress of producers in Great Jamahiriyah, the president of the Organisation of African Unity trade Union, the ILO lauding the pioneering role played by the great Al-Fatih revolution in supporting and assisting the causes of freedom and liberation and the confrontation of all imperialist and Zionist schemes in Africa.

The speakers condemned the practices of the Zionist enemy in occupied Palestine and the racist regime in South Africa. Then three commissions were set up, they are: the commission of accepting credentials, the financial commission, and the decisions commission.

Jallud Addresses Conference on Industry

LD092344 Tripoli JANA in English 1856 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 9, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud this morning attended the opening session of the first conference on industry organized by the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Industry under the banner 'Towards the launching of advanced industry'.

Major Jallud made clear in a speech that this conference comes at a time Great Jamahiriyah is seeing an escalation of revolutionary historical action and the victory of the cause of freedom. He asserted that the great historical action by the leader demolishing prison, liberating prisoners on the third of Al-Marikh [3 March] past and followed by the tearing up of the lists of those banned from travelling abroad is a real victory for freedom and a triumph for nationalist ideology for we as masses have the right to live at least in freedom in our greater Arab homeland.

Major Jallud pointed to the need to give impetus to this great historical action turning it into creative resources and innovations so as to build up the masses society and providing ample production and that the efforts are strongly launched in the field of services and production and that all the masses are brought to the level of this great historical victory for the cause of freedom.

He added that this victory must change radically our behavior and adds to its awareness and that our self confidence deepens boosting ethical and moral revolution inside every individual and turn to working so as to show that we are up to this victory and harnessing the immense efforts of mankind and that this real revolution leads us to the cause of freedom with a new human behavior so as to take off for the perspectives of freedom and inovation.

He asserted that this revolution results in new major policies on the shoulder of the youths and productive cadres. Major Jallud urged the producers at all positions of production to be up to the level of responsibility entrusted to them so as to raise the industrial standard and realise the needed production. He asserted that we have confidence in the masses of producers as they are the soldiers of production.

Major Jallud called for the need to follow the scientific methods of management and to conduct comprehensive study on every factory pointing out the necessity of every factory to become a unity of production and determining the goals of each factory and giving importance to the increasing of productivity and material and morale incentives for the producers and the application of partners and not wage-earners.

He affirmed the need to give importance to the industrial sector and industrial positions and the application of the scientific and economic management so as to benefit of the time factor and facing up the challenge of production...and that the revolution is not a slogan but it is suffering, work and earnest action. [sentence as received]

Also attending the opening session were the secretary of the General People's Committee for industries, a number of secretaries of people's committees for industries and people's committees at the municipalities.

The conference, held at the centre of industrial researches in Tajura from 9 till 12 current; is aimed at drawing future plans for industrial projects relying on

local raw material and the required priorities in this sector as well as to consider the proposals necessary to give impetus to industrial development.

Furthermore the conference shall study the problems of industry and industrialization and finding solutions to them. The conference shall be submitted a number of scientific papers concerning industry with the participation of 80 industrial companies and institutions in Great Jamahiriyah in addition to the universities and centres of scientific research.

Tunisia

Israeli Responsibility for Killing 'Proved'

LD181642 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] The president of the Republic conferred this morning in the presidential palace in Carthage with the members of the committee entrusted with the task of investigating the assassination of Palestinian leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

The investigation has proved Israel's responsibility for this treacherous act and its planning and execution of this operation.

It has become clear that the armed terrorist group, which at dawn last Saturday assassinated the Palestinian leader, was backed by advanced technological support, thus excluding it from the commonly known type of terrorist acts and making it the kind of terrorism that only states can afford.

It was proved to the investigation committee that an Israeli military aircraft Boeing 707 carrying the following numbers 4x977 was flying near Tunisian air space during the execution of the operation. This aircraft continued to fly in the international flight corridor about 55 km from Tunisian territory. It did not leave the international corridor—that would have necessitated a confrontation with the Tunisian Air Force. It was also evident that this aircraft was of a special kind for electronic warfare and had electronically jammed the wire and wireless communications in the Sidi Bu Sa'id area where the Palestinian leader was assassinated.

With regard to the protection of members of the Palestinian leadership, the Committee noted that this issue should be submitted within the framework of what some leading Palestinians have expressed in the form of a desire for light security. This takes account of the fact that the latter provides easy movement, as well as the country's characteristics as an open tourist country, and the general characteristics of modern societies in which it becomes difficult to take precautions against the phenomenon of terrorism carried out on the ground and collectively by a group.

His excellency the president of the Republic strongly condemned this premeditated and flagrant aggression on Tunisian sovereignty and issued an order to the minister of foreign affairs to:

1. Invite and brief the ambassadors of the five permanent-members of the Security Council and the ambassadors of some other countries acredited to Tunisia.

2. To lodge a complaint with the Security Council against Israel.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali recommended revision of the security precautions which are in operation and reinforcement of the units whose task is to provide protection for Tunisia's guests—members of the Palestinian leadership. The head of state reaffirmed anew Tunisia's stand with the Palestinian people in their struggle, under the leadership of the PLO—their sole legitimate representative—to retrieve their rights and build their independent state on their land.

Envoys Briefed on Assassination

LD182346 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] In accordance with the instructions of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahmoud Mestiri yesterday [18 April] afternoon received the ambassadors of Britain, China, the United States, France, and the Soviet Union respectively.

The minister drew the attention of these countries' representatives to the seriousness of the terrorist operation perpetrated by Israel against Tunisia's territorial safety and its sovereignty, and informed them of Tunisia's determination to work in a way so Israel will not carry out terrorist actions in Tunisian territory again.

Mahmoud Mestiri informed the diplomats of Tunisia's decision to submit the case to the UN Security Council and asked them to support Tunisia's just case in the Security Council so it will take suitable practical measures necessary to put an end to the international terrorism practiced by Israel.

Khalil al-Wazir's Body To Go To Damascus

LD181810 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] We have learned that his excellency the president of the Republic has entrusted Interior Minister Habib Ammar and Dr Hamed Karoui, director of the Democratic Destourian Rally, with accompanying the body of the late Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] to Damascus and representing Tunisia in the funeral procession of the late Palestinian leader.

Informed Palestinian sources in Tunis said the body of the martyr fighter Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, will be transported tomorrow from Tunis to Damascus where the burial procession will be organized next Wednesday.

Egyptian Newspaper Interview With Baccouche

JN181851 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
14 Apr 88 pp 1, 3, 6

[Interview with Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche by Editor in Chief Mahfuz al-Ansari in Tunis—date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Mr Prime Minister, we would like to discuss four important points with you. The first deals with the situation in Tunisia following the recent changes. The second is on the Arab state of affairs in light of what is currently taking place in the Arab arena and what is taking place outside this arena but affects the region's causes. The third is on international relations and how they affect the Arab cause. The fourth is on relations between Egypt and Tunisia.

Let us begin with the situation in Tunisia. Following the recent changes, Tunisia faces two major challenges on the domestic level. The first is the democratic challenge and intensive activities have started on this front. The second consists of the problems the people are experiencing, problems that have reached alarming proportions. Perhaps the unemployment among the graduates is the most important of these problems. How do you cope with all these problems? Are there priorities? Or do you tackle all problems at once?

Hedi Baccouche: We cannot separate all these problems. Democracy is the organizational framework for the masses. Organizing the masses should either take place in accordance with democratic rules or be subject to theories and practises that are not in line with the rights of the individual. In Tunisia, the masses are organized on democratic bases. This means that any citizen can freely express his opinion even if it is different from other opinions.

We now have three parties. A new law is being prepared to regulate the establishment of parties. It will be referred to parliament soon. After this law, othe parties will be established in Tunisia.

Under the new law, the establishment of any party will be governed by the following three basic principles: 1) The renunciation of violence 2) The nonallegiance to foreign quarters 3) The renunciation of sedition.

The idea is based on a national concept that bans any link to any foreign party. That's how a plurality of parties will be established in accordance with the law. [passage omitted]

Question: Mr Prime Minister, professional societies, labor organizations, and trade unions differ from political groupings or parties. Political parties and groupings act in accordance with a specific program to assume power while trade unions and professional societies are groups that defend their gains and interests. Are they not after power and could they themselves be part of the political parties?

Hedi Baccouche: At one time in Tunisia, the professional societies and trade unions used to aspire to power. An example of this is the General Union of Tunisian Workers.

It is true that political parties seek power but there are many other groupings and organizations that want to have their share of political power. I will give you an example. We changed the configuration and program of the economic and social council so that it may comprise the presidents of the engineers, doctors, and lawyers associations to enable them to participate in the country's public affairs. This is to prevent political life from being monopolized by the political parties. All the citizens, individually or collectively, must also participate.

Question: Does this mean that there will be restrictions on the formation of new political parties in the forthcoming stage?

Hedi Baccouche: No. This is not true. The new law does not seek to restrict the activities or the formation of new parties. On the contrary, it encourages the establishment of new parties. However, political parties should avoid having any connection with foreign quarters, should not resort to violence, and should not be a factor of sedition.

Question: Are these restrictions or conditions intended to oppose the religious trend?

Hedi Baccouche: We are all Muslims in Tunisia. Parties cannot work under the slogan of Islam. This means that the other parties are not Islamic parties.

Question: You are aware that the Islamic trend in Tunisia is active with underground and open organizations. Where do you place them on the political map?

Hedi Baccouche: Now that there is a party law in place they must fit in with the laws. They can engage in social, cultural, and political action, although they are now inclined to engage in cultural pursuits. But they must respect the draft law once it is passed by the parliament. They may then engage in political and social activity.

Question: Are you saying that if they change their name they will be permitted to set up a party?

Hedi Baccouche: Certainly yes, but not a Muslim party, since all of us are Muslims. As I have said they must conform to the terms I have mentioned. All Tunisian

parties are Muslim. Even the Communist Party which espouses Marxism is Muslim in its speeches and demonstrations. It is therefore unacceptable for a single party to have the exclusive right of an Islamic designation. [passage omitted]

Question: You will visit Egypt on 16 April. How are relations between Tunisia and Egypt developing?

Hedi Baccouche: Right from the first day of the new era in Tunisia and since President Mubarak sent us congratulations, relations have been strong and friendly both on the popular and official levels. With points of tension and old political differences out of the way the bilateral ties are now excellent on the popular and government levels. Tunisia recognizes Egypt's weight and historical stand. Given cooperation we can help ourselves overcome all the difficulties and challenges, as it will be hard for President Mubarak to tackle pressures on Egypt and the Arab world when he is remote and isolated from the Arab world. We are against any Arab leadership being ostracized, least of all a country with the stature of Egypt. Our relationship is one of complete cooperation economically, politically, and culturally.

Question: Are there specific projects in the context of the joint cooperation?

Hedi Baccouche: I will go to Egypt on a working visit and as an official envoy to reach understanding on matters of shared interest and to exchange views on regional political developments and bilateral relations.

Question: The Arab Maghreb is torn between forces of unity and forces of war or regional insularity. How do unity calls square with calls for regional insularity particularly concerning the Sahara problem in which you have been involved through many political meetings?

Hedi Baccouche: All the Arab Maghreb countries call for unity since regional insularity is an impediment to the development of the countries concerned. All of the countries that are interested in development must work to make their development plans succeed. We cannot deal with the West and Europe when we are in a state of disunity. So unity is necessary and inevitable. If it is true that after independence each of the Maghreb countries began to have a parochial outlook, this approach is no longer worthwhile. But we have been bequeathed residues from that era, most notably the Sahara problem which was the product of a misunderstanding rather than a dispute. Now all the parties are looking for a solution to the intractable problem that must be tackled. Hence our good offices in this regard. We had problems with Libya, more particularly with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. We are now on the road to removing these difficulties. Relations between Tunisia and Libya are gradually improving. We are also working to improve Egyptian-Libyan ties. We did intercede with Egypt to solve the crisis of the Libyan planes through direct contacts between President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Mubarak.

Question: Is an Arab Maghreb union a possibility without Morocco?

Hedi Baccouche: There can be no Arab Maghreb without Morocco. An Arab Maghreb union must incorporate Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco. The three-way meetings in Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf took place during an annual event between Tunisia and Algeria. This year, however Col al-Qadhdhafi also came and his presence there at the time came as a shock. Libya would like to see the reconciliation and brotherhood agreement grouping Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania develop into a union. But we would not go along with that as neither the timing nor the circumstances are yet right.

Question: How can Tunisia help in ending the Sahara problem; and 13 years since the dispute began do you think a solution is possible?

Hedi Baccounche: We hope the right circumstances will arise for a solution. There is an inclination to seek a UN and OAU-sponsored plebiscite. [passage omitted]

Question: How do you see the picture now in light of the Palestinian uprising, its regional repercussions, recent U.S. moves, and the Shultz initiative to unblock the peace process?

Hedi Baccouche: We bless the uprising as the road leading to a just solution to the Palestine question. Tunisia supports a Palestinian state. The U.S. moves in the region through Shultz were one of the first repercussions of the uprising. It is unfortunate that the U.S. initiative has failed to recognize the PLO and that Washington still refuses to talk to the PLO despite the fact that it is the most important element of the issue. Egypt, however can play a major, important role in finding a solution to this snag. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Crown Prince Comments on Gulf War, Hijacking

JN181417 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 17 Apr 88 pp 1, 4

[By Ahmad Jarallah]

[Text] The Bahraini Crown Prince Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah has said that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner was well-planned and well-timed. He suggested that it was no coincidence that it occurred at a time when the Iraq-Iran "war of the cities" was escalating and when the Palestinian uprising was intensifying.

In an exclusive interview, the Crown Prince expressed his respect for the Kuwaiti people and supported the stand taken by its leadership in refusing to give in to the demands of the hijackers.

Shaykh Hamad said: "...I believe there are forces behind this well-planned incident, not only in its execution, but in its timing as well," he did not elaborate the forces that he felt influenced or controlled the hijackers' action.

He was unequivocal in his opinion of the Iraq-Iran war and said emphatically: "This war can be stopped if the merchants of arms and weapons want to."

He added, some think that Iran refuses to mediate because if the war comes to an end it will automatically mean the downfall of the Iranian regime which has failed to fulfill its promises about the war. He explained that this issue, plus the fact that the war continues to be supported by arms producers, make an end to the war unlikely.

Iraq has accepted peace, approved the Security Council resolutions and welcomed regional and international mediation efforts, he said. "But the war will continue until the Iranian leadership realises the cost of the war and is convinced that there is no reason for it to continue."

The Crown Prince cautioned against thinking of the war as an Iraq-Iran war, or even a Gulf war. "It is rather the war of the whole world, since its influence and efect reach the interests of the world."

He maintains that the failure of countries to anticipate the global impact of the war at its inception contributed to its expansion and destruction. "It was believed to have been only a Gulf war... that would last several days."

Hamad said that relations between Iraq and Bahrain are good and that the Iraqis warmly welcomed the Bahraini prime minister during his visit to Baghdad recently.

Although the Crown Prince expressed approval of the Gulf Cooperation Council's formula for operation, he acknowledged that it was capable of achieving more. "The formula upon which the GCC was founded is very good and obstacles should be expected, but the forum must be protected and preserved."

Regarding disputes that arise within the GCC, he said it is important that the disputes be solved within the group before they get out of control.

He added that the border dispute that erupted between Bahrain and Qatar could still be solved within the GCC framework. Athough he said that this wasn't the time to go into detail about the dispute, he said again that everything can be solved within the formula of the GCC.

On being queried about a recent refinery accident in Bahrain, he said that security forces foiled the attempt. He attributed the economic prosperity of Bahrain to its security and political stability although its resources are limited and it depends on the support of other countries.

This year's GCC summit will be held in Bahrain and with Bahrain having the lowest per capita income among the GCC states the question arose as to whether this would be presented at the summit.

The Crown Prince said: "Bahrain has the potential of having strategic industries which could meet the needs of the area market."

The Bahraini-Saudi Causeway, which links Bahrain with Saudi Arabia, has doubled the number of people who enter Bahrain. Shaykh Hamad said that they had feared that this increase in the number of cars entering the country would cause internal traffic congestion. He added that this had not become a problem and that many other positive factors had resulted.

"The causeway creates understanding among the merchants in the area which is in the interest of all."

He praised the role of Saudi Arabia in building the Bahraini Defence Force, saying: "The coordination with Saudi Arabia is good inside the framework of the GCC. We do not deny or ignore their role."

Kuwait

Cabinet Reviews Hijacking, Honors 2 'Martyrs'

LD181250 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1205 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Apr (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers held an emergency meeting today under the leadership of the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid said that the Council had reviewed the latest developments in the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, which is grounded at Houari Boumedienne Airport in Algiers, as well as the contacts underway between the Algerian authorities and the hijackers. He added that the Council praised the brotherly and good efforts which are being made by the Algerian officials—in the forefront of whom are President Chadli Bendjedid and the Algerian interior minister—to release the hostages and the aircraft.

He stated that the Council was acquainted with the appreciation of the amir of the State of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-'Ahmad al-Sabah, for the the national sacrifice made by Kuwait's two martys, 'Abdallah Muhammad Habbab al-Khalidi and Khalid 'Ayyub 'Ismail. Shaykh Jabir has ordered that families of the two martyrs be given full blood money [al-diyyah] for the two deceased, that their debts and their families' debts to the state be written off, and all their debts and families' debts to financial institutions and business organizations be paid off, and that their salaries be paid to their respective families.

Minister of State Thanks Algerian Officials

LD191033 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, has expressed his satisfaction and thanks to the Algerian authorities, who are doing their utmost in their efforts to find a solution to the crisis of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner, grounded at Houari Boumedienne Airport in Algiers.

There are no reports on the outcome of efforts to secure the release of the hostages and the plane. There is only one report which states that the hijackers, in their first contact today with the control tower, repeated their routine demands for water, newspapers, and toilet cleaning. They also demanded medicine for stomach ache.

Papers Hail Government Stance Against Hijackers

LD180917 Kuwait KUNA in English 0806 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 18 (KUNA)—Two Kuwaiti newspapers Monday hailed the Kuwaiti measures in trying to solve the ordeal of the hijacked Kuwaiti jetliner and affirmed that Kuwait will not submit to "devilish pressure."

Daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said those who believe that Kuwait could be shaken or affected by shocks or crisis are mistaken, affirming that Kuwaiti people are one body and one family. It noted that those "ignorant" people, who believe that they can bring rifts between the people of Kuwait, "do not know the nature of the Kuwaitis."

The paper pointed out that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane, the assassination of deputy general commander of the [Palestinian] Revolutionary Forces Khalil al-Wazir and the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war "is the most serious penetration of the Arab national security."

It called on the Arabs not to remain silent and indifferent toward the activities of the Arab nation's enemies, who are moving everywhere to bring rifts in the Arab rank.

English-language daily "KUWAIT TIMES" said there is no reason to "hold a gun to the heads of those people (hostages of the hijacked Kuwaiti plane) and make atrociously absurd demands on their government."

The paper stressed that "no law, no system of morality among human beings would countenance even the remotest risk of hurting the innocent in the process of meeting the ends of justice."

The paper hailed the stand of Kuwait toward the hijacking, saying "it stands eternally to the credit of his highness the amir of Kuwait and his government that this country has refused to bend to this kind of wicked almost satanic pressure".

While praising the stands of brotherly and sisterly countries toward the hijacking ordeal, the paper criticized Washington's silence toward it. The paper stressed that Kuwait is determined to face this ordeal "without wilting." But it added "there is no substitute for international solidarity in the face of the rising tide of air piracy."

Condolences Expressed Over Al-Wazir Killing

LD190929 Kuwait KUNA in English 2258 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 19 (KUNA)—Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid last night paid a visit to premises of the PLO in Kuwait where he conveyed condolences of H.H. the amir, H.H. the crown prince and prime minister and government over the death of PLO leader Khalil al-Wazir.

Yesterday, H.H. the amir and H.H. the crown prince and prime minister sent cables of condolences to chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat.

Amir Allocates Payment for Al-Wazir's Family

JN182049 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, has told KUNA that the amir of the country has ordered a regular monthly payment for the family of martyr Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, in appreciation for the deceased and for his struggle to achieve victory for his country and the aspirations of his people.

PDRY

Al-Bid, Delegation Return to Aden From YAR

EA172132 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and the delegation accompanying him, returned to Aden this afternoon after a 2-day visit to Ta'izz in the northern part of the homeland. They were seen off by Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress; Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the permanent committee; and a number of officials of the northern part of the homeland.

Saudi Arabia

Communique Condemns 'Grave Iranian Aggression'

LD190105 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2330 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh 18 Apr SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, chaired the meeting of the Council of Ministers held at 2200 tonight, Monday 2 Ramadan, 1408 Hegira [18 April] in Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh. After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir said in a statement to SPA that the council, under the direction of the king, began today's meeting with a comprehensive review of the most important events that took place in the region, foremost being the assassination of the Palestinian struggler, martyr Khalid al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution.

The council expressed its deepest regret and pain at the loss of a Palestinian leader who fought for the victory of the Palestinian cause, achieving a great deal in all situations with his brother and companion Mr Yasir 'Arafat and their colleagues in the leadership of the PLO. The council also condemned and denounced the cowardly method adopted by the criminal killers in perpetrating this hideous crime. The council reiterated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stands on the side of the Palestinian people and is in fully solidarity with it in its struggle until it achieves its objectives and legitimate rights.

The minister of information further said: On the other hand, the council has seen the communique issued by the General Command of the Iraq Armed Forces this evening, announcing that Iraqi forces have recaptured, with guidance and help from God, the town of Faw, and hoisted the Iraqi flag over it today, Monday, the 2d of the blessed month of Ramadan, 1408.

The council showed deep satisfaction at the contents of the historic Iraqi communique and voiced the congratulations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the fraternal Iraqi Republic for this step, looking forward to seeing this step becoming the end of a tragedy that has lasted long between the two Muslim states.

Minister al-Sha'ir went on: Afterwards, the council further looked into the development of the current security situation in the Arab Gulf Waters and the new events heppening there. The council then issued the following communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made it clear on more than one occasion that the Iranian regime, not content with its war with fraternal Iraq—a war that has indiscriminately destroyed everything and spread agitation and concern in the region, laying it open to the dangers of foreign intervention, and involving it in the hell of international conflicts—has been widening the zone of the war and trying to take its conflict to sides that are not involved in it, threatening the security of other states and obstructing international navigation in the Gulf.

The recent Iranian aggression against the Mubarak oilfield in the fraternal UAE and the previous aggression against fraternal Kuwait on Bubiyan Island are nothing but a new link in the chain of the grave Iranian aggression against the security and stability of the region and the sovereignty and safety of its states. Likewise, the current clashes between the U.S. fleet and the Iranian warships and the continuing planting of mines in the international waters of the Gulf are also evidence of the dangers that may result from the continuation of this grave situation and the persistent escalation sought by Iran in the region.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has stressed that leaving the waterways in the Gulf open to international navigation is a principle established by international law and the law of the sea and that any measures seeking to ensure this fall within this framework of international law.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while stressing again that obstructing international navigation, whether in international waters or in waterways, is an illegal act and open piracy, condemns the recent Iranian aggression against fraternal UAE and warns against the increasing dangers due to the current military escalation in the region

On the other hand, the council has followed the development of events concerning the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and expresses its hope that the current continuing efforts exerted by the fraternal Algerian Republic, in cooperation with some brothers, will realize the hoped-for release of the hostages and the return of the airliner to the fraternal State of Kuwait.

Yemen Arab Republic

Reportage on Visit by PDRY's Al-Bid

Arrives 16 Apr

JN161224 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee [of the YSP] in the southern part of the homeland arrived in Ta'izz this morning. He was greeted at the airport by brother leader President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress, along with senior officials.

Holds Talks on Unity

JN171622 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] A session of fraternal talks was held at the presidential palace in Ta'izz yesterday between leaders of the two parts of the homeland under brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the [YSP] Central Committee in the southern part of our homeland.

At the beginning of the session, Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih welcomed the brothers from the southern part of the homeland, who are members of the YSP Political Bureau and Central Committee and ministers. He said: I welcome you in the name of your brothers in the northern part to this fraternal meeting. This meeting is considered a cornerstone on the road to restore the homeland's unity. In the meeting, there will be discussion on the strategic goal of the 26 September and the 14 October revolutions.

The president added: Restoration of Yemeni unity is considered a national gain for our Yemeni people and also for our Arab and Islamic nations, as well as a fulfillment of all objectives for which all of us aspire. By realizing unity we will overcome all obstacles inherited from the hateful colonialism which transplanted artificial limbs and left behind remnants of the past on political and other levels. As known, colonialism must have left behind many frustrations. However, we are confident we will take positive and more serious steps to restore the homeland's unity in a way achieving the objectives for which our masses aspire.

The president asserted Yemeni unity will bring strength and prosperity to our people because we will unify all political, economic, security, and military capabilities and will also add a national asset to our people and to our Arab and Islamic nations. The president expressed profound regret over the tragic incidents that occurred in the past, including the 13 January incidents in the southern part of the homeland. These events had adverse effects and inflicted great damage on our brothers in the south in terms of manpower, political and economic aspects, or other aspects. He said: We hope such incidents will not occur in either of the two parts of the homeland because this will serve enemies.

Regarding relations between the two parts of the homeland, the president said: All of us should not be driven behind hostile schemes and we should discuss matters with a responsible spirit. We shoulder full responsibility because we are not only responsible for the northern part, but we also join our brothers in the southern part in all the agonies and tragedies that take place in the southern part. Likewise, what occurs in the northern part will be reflected on the brothers in the southern part of the homeland. Moreover, the negative aspects which occur in the southern part will be reflected on the northern part, whether we like it or not. This is because we are one family and one nation. However, colonialism and imamate created differences among us so that the only solution is to attain unity. By means of unity we will achieve political and economic gains.

The president explained: We should benefit from all negative aspects. We consider Yemeni unity the cornerstone to achieving Arab unity and we only need a courageous decision. We also need to assess our experience in the southern part since independence, and also our experience in the northern part will be assessed so we will benefit from the positive aspects. We do not need experts to assist us in this regard. Unity will assist our people and nation because it opposes division, racism, and all remnants of colonialism. As is known, enemies of both our people and our Arab and Islamic nations do not seek the unification of our capabilities and resources because their interests lie in our division.

It is easy for enemies to strike at us when we are divided. The enemies are doing their best to maintain the partitioning of the homeland, but we must shoulder the responsibility and take a genuine step toward the restoration of Yemeni unity. This is because our unity differs from that in other countries and has its own characteristics. For example, no matter how efficient the security organs in both parts of the homeland may be in the political and security fields, we cannot prevent any citizen from crossing from the north to the south and vice versa. This is because the homeland is one and the people are united. Therefore, we should bolster the unionist steps in addition to the established committees and joint projects. We must also shoulder our responsibilities before our people and avoid all that may affect relations between the two parts. Moreover, we should foil plans of the forces that wager on creating tension between the two parts and that do not harbor good intentions toward our people.

Concluding his remarks during the session, the president reiterated his welcome of the dear brothers from the southern part of the homeland. He said: We are happy

for this meeting, which can be a good start on the road of prosperity for the homeland. We ask Almighty God to keep our people away from any harm.

For his part, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said: Allow me in the beginning to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for the warm welcome and fraternal hospitality accorded to us by the brother officials and our masses in the nrothern part of the homeland. Fortunately, this high-level meeting is held between leaders of the two parts of the homeland in the lofty city of Ta'izz. This city played a mass role in defending the 26 September Revolution and protecting its republican regime and also, participated in the creation of the 14 October Revolution.

Al-Bid added: Today we meet in Ta'izz under good circumstances during which the Yemeni revolution's movement is about to yield fruits through the restoration of the homeland's unity—land and man—and through the cohesion of the whole Yemeni people in a unified and democratic Yemeni state. This fills us with pride and confidence in the future. He said: This meeting is important in addition to what was performed in the previous phase. The meeting is a continuation of the past achievements and an expression of a sure desire to promote the unionist efforts and create appropriate circumstances to realize new steps and successes on the road to unity.

The brother secretary general of the YSP Central Committee added: Based on the eagerness to make Yemeni unity a historic event that cannot be relinquished and also based on the exploitation of similar experience in this regard, we emphasize the importance of paying further attention to creating an economic integration, expanding trade exchange, activating economic and social development plans, promoting the existing joint establishments and economic projects, and establishing other projects that will create a great many relations and common material interests. Such relations and interests will give momentum to the issue of unity. Moreover, our coming work should pay further attention to the issues of facilitating citizens' movement and exchanging newspapers, books, and publications.

Concluding his remarks, Al-Bid reiterated the southern part's readiness to proceed on the road of a constructive, peaceful, and fraternal dialogue and also to exert every possible and required effort to remove any manifestation of tension in the relations between the two parts of the homeland. He said: In this context, I express our full and unconditional readiness to adopt the option of joint unionist action in all fields based on the agreements concluded between leaders of the two parts to create objective circumstances to restore Yemeni unity with a democratic content and by peaceful means.

Talks dealt with the overall issues linked to the efforts aimed at promoting and consolidating the unionist steps in a way serving the homeland's supreme interest and fulfilling our Yemeni people's aspirations for unity, progress, and prosperity. Members of both countries' delegations attended the talks.

Earlier, Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and YSP Central Committee Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid held a closed meeting. They reviewed the overall unionist steps on the road to restoring unity of the Yemeni land and people based on the unionst agreements concluded between leaders of the two parts. They also reviewed ways to enhance joint efforts with the aim of promoting unionist action so it will fulfill the aspirations of our Yemeni people in both parts of the homeland and bring closer Yemeni unity, our people's destiny.

Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid resumed their fraternal talks. They held a closed session in Ta'izz yesterday evening to continue discussing the issues related to the effort to promote and enhance the unionist steps in a way serving the homeland's supreme interest and achieving our Yemeni people's aspirations for unity, progress, and prosperity.

Holds Final Talks, Departs

JN171827 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Brothers President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and [YSP] Central Committee Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid held a final meeting at the presidential palace in Ta'izz at noon today. They completed discussing the topics raised at previous meetings yesterday as part of promoting unionist action based on the unionist agreements between leaders of the two parts of the homeland in a way serving the Yemeni homeland's supreme interests and fulfilling our people's most cherished and noble goal: restoration of Yemeni unity.

Afterward, members of both delegations joined the talks. An expanded meeting was held under President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Al-Bid. The president expressed satisfaction with the positive resutls of this meeting. He asserted that promoting the unionisit action by a peaceful and democratic way is the only and optimal means to fulfill our people's national and noble objectives.

For his part, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid expressed satisfaction with the outcome of this meeting. He stressed the importance of continuing such meetings. He said: I have nothing to add more than what was mentioned by Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and what was mentioned in the minutes signed by the unity affairs ministers in both parts of the homeland.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid left the city of Ta'izz this afternoon following a 2-day visit. He was seen off at the (Al-Shurayjah) area by Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, and a number of senior civil and military officials.

Papers Cited on Khalil al-Wazir Assassination

JN170840 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers are unanimous that the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner by the henchmen of the Iranian regime seek to obscure and obstruct the uprising of the stone-throwers.

AL-THAWRAH says that the odious Zionist crime of assassination of Abu Jihad clearly shows that the grueling uprising is smothering the Zionists and is weighing heavily on their usurper entity. The paper says that this crime also shows how terrified and afraid the Zionist enemy is of the role of the leaders of the uprising which has imposed a new reality on the Zionist entity and has forced it to reassess its stands.

AL-QADISIYAH says that the martyrdom of struggler Khalil al-Wazir will enhance the Palestinian spirit of steadfastness and confrontation until all their objectives are attained. The paper adds that the blood of the Palestinian martyrs who fall on the battlefield while fighting the usurpers or as a result of their treacherous bullets will further fan the fire of the Palestinian struggle for the attainment of the Palestinian people's national and pan-Arab objectives.

The paper says that Iraq believes that the road to the liberation of Palestine is through its confrontation of the Iranian aggression and through the marshaling of all its potentialities and capabilities to serve the battle of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people against the Zionist presence.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Zionist entity still believes it can assassinate the Palestinian people's will through this type of terrorist crime. AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that while condemning this crime Iraq voices its full solidarity with the PLO and affirms that both are fighting the same battle against Khomeyniism and Zionism, the two allies that seek to harm the Arab nation and its dignity.

AL-'IRAQ affirms that hero martyr Abu Jihad has efficiently carried out his militant role in service of the Arab nation's cause, and that there are thousands of the sons of this Arab nation who are prepared to carry out the militant tasks dictated by the Arab nation's fateful causes.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,148

JN181827 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1713 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,148 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 April]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] O Iraqis, Al-Faw has been liberated. Al-Faw has been liberated. Al-Faw has been liberated. The enemies have been defeated. The enemies have been defeated. The enemies have been defeated, leaving only their corpses on our territory. Let joyful songs be sung by the glorious Iraqi women and let children sing for their happy future.

Following is our units' activities for last night and today:

1. With God's help the following missile strikes were launched at enemy cities with the Al-Husayn missiles:

a. At 0115 today [2115 GMT on 17 April] the Al-Husayn Missile Force launched its 108th strike at the city of Qom.

b. At 0352 today, the 109th strike was launched at the city of Qom.

c. At 0815 today, the 110th strike was launched at the city of Tehran.

d. At 0959 today, the Al-Husayn Missile Force launched the 111th strike at the city of Esfahan.

e. At 1850 today, the Al-Husayn Missile Force launched the 112th strike at the city of Tehran.

2. Today, our Air Force carried out 338 combat missions. They also dealt two blows to the city of Dezful. Afterward, all our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our helicopter gunships today carried out 191 combat missions, providing great support for our units which were uprooting the scoundrels. They also inflicted further losses on the enemy. Afterward, they returned safely to base, praise be to God.

4. Fifteen scoundrels were killed and a vehicle and a tubular launcher were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 April 1988

Missile Strike at Qom

JN181847 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1837 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 18 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help, the 113th missile strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was launched at the city of Qom at 2201 [1801 GMT] today. May God bless Iraq's valiant men. March on.

[Dated] 18 April 1988

Defense Minister on Al-Faw

JN181855 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and defense minister, has asserted that war must end in accordance with Security Council Resolution No 598.

In a cable sent to President Saddam Husayn on liberating the city of Al-Faw today, he said the battle waged by both the Presidential Guard Force and the VII Army Corps has been a lesson in military action in which the growing abilities of the Iraqi Army were demonstrated. He added that the Iraqi forces rushed in a great advance and an orderly march. Hence, the battle was a model of liberation, victory, and confident and courageous advance so that the enemies collapsed inside the dens of evil.

He added: The Iraqi forces competed in advancing on their honorable territory, thus telling the whole world that Iraq cannot be subjugated by conspiracy and that Iraq obstinately supports the right and offers great sacrifices while remaining lofty. Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah emphasized that if the Iranian rulers maintain their obstinacy and intransigence then they should recall our warnings. Calamity will afflict the despots.

Saddam Visits Battlefield

JN181919 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1844 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, returned to Baghdad this evening after he made a field supervision of the "Blessed Ramadan" operation which liberated Al-Faw from the filth of the aggressive Khomeyniites.

During his meeting with the field commanders of the heroic Presidential Guard Force and the VII Army Corps, the president leader blessed their victories, sacrifices, and patience during the "Blessed Ramadan" operations. President leader Saddam Husayn held several meetings with the staff lieutenant general commander of the heroic VII Army Corps and the staff major general commander of the heroic Presidential Guard Force and also with commanders of the military formations and units. His excellency closely followed up the "Blessed Ramadan" operations waged by the men of the brave Presidential Guard Force and the heroic VII Army Corps, supported by God's care. These men proudly raised the Iraqi banner above their heads over the liberated Al-Faw land which has returned to the motherland, land of Al-Rafidayn and of missions and holy places.

His excellency was accompanied on his field tours by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and defense minister; Colonel Husayn Kamil, head of the Military Industries Organization and acting minister of industry and minerals; and sons of the president leader, 'Udayy Saddam Husayn and Qusayy Saddam Husayn.

Downing of Plane Denied

JN182032 Baghdad INA in English 2000 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian claims on the downing of an Iraqi fighter plane today. In a statement to INA tonight, a military spokesman said that the Iraqi aircraft today carried out their duties and returned safely to base.

Army Commanders Cable Saddam

JN182035 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—Staff Lieutenant General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, commander of the VII Army Corps, has affirmed that the units of the VII Army Corps participating in battles to regain the city of Al-Faw have turned the Iranian forces into disrupted bodies littering the Al-Faw city area.

In a cable sent to President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of liberating the city of Al-Faw today, he said that the units of the II Army Corps were pursuing the Iranians like hawks after birds and that the Iraqis were like flood and fire in pursuing the Khomeyniites.

He added that the VII Army Corps has completed all its duties in accordance with a set plan, liberating the land and expelling the remnants of the enemy. He said that this was due to the rare courage demonstrated by the commanders, officers, and other ranks—a courage previously unknown before in the history of wars. He pledged President Saddam Husayn that the Army, which has destroyed the enemy, is still ready for any difficult mission. He said: You will see that we will make sacrifices and achieve victory.

Staff Major General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah al-Rawi, commander of the Presidential Guard Forces, said that the Al-Faw liberation battle is one of the great battles because it represents a victory of freedom over slavery, good over evil, progress and its advocates over backwardness and its advocates, and peace over war.

In a similar cable to President Saddam Husayn on liberating the Al-Faw, he added that the men of the difficult missions—the commanders, officer, and soldiers of the Presidential Guard Forces rushed with courage as our grandfathers did in the past to destroy injustice and bury the scoundrels under earth.

He also said that the men raced one another over the bodies of the enemies, penetrated their defenses, and pursued their remnants. Those who survived fled to the opposite coast while the men of the Presidential Guard

beheaded those who tried to remain there. Then our forces entered the city of Al-Faw and other forces reached the Ra's al-Bishah, located on the farthest point of our border on the Gulf and that no scoundrel exists in our territory.

Strikes on Esfahan, Shiraz

JN190615 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0555 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 19 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With God's help, the following two missile strikes were carried out with Al-Husayn missiles:

1. At 0105 today [2105 GMT on 18 April], the Al-Husayn Missile Force carried out its 114th strike at the city of Esfahan.

2. At 0615 [0415 GMT] today, Al-Husayn Missile Force carried out the 115th strike at the city of Shiraz.

Blessed be Iraq's righteous men. Praise be to God for His victory.

[Dated] 19 April 1988

Missile Fired on Tehran

JN190727 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0721 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 19 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help, the Al-Husayn Missile Force carried the 116th strike at the city of Tehran at 1048 [0648 GMT] today. Blessed be the lofty Iraqi sons. Praise be to God for His victory. [Dated] 19 April

Saddam Chairs Command Meeting

JN190732 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0300 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command.

At the beginning of the meeting, Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and defense minister, gave a briefing on the great victory achieved by our valiant Armed Forces and defense minister, gave a briefing on the great victory achieved by our valiant Armed Forces in destroying the Iranian occupation forces in Al-Faw. He described the comprehensive planning of this historic battle and the measures taken to guarantee its swift success. He also reviewed the details of the fierce battles waged by the Presidential Guard Force, the men of the difficult missions, and the heroes of the VII Army Corps, in which enemy forces were crushed completely in record time not exceeding 35 hours from the beginning until the end of the triumphant battle.

The RCC and the Regional Command expressed their great happiness with this historic achievement in the course of our just battle with the aggressive Iranian enemy. They also expressed appreciation for the great leader, triumphant President Saddam Husayn, who planned this battle, provided the requirements of its success, and led it in a unique way, thus achieving victory for Iraq and the Arab nation under his triumphant leadership.

The RCC and the Regional Command stressed that this victory expresses a historic qualitative step in the course of conflict against the covetous Iranian enemy, and stressed the deep significance which was reflected in the Armed Forces General Command's Communique No 1,341. The RCC and the Regional Command also expressed appreciation for the commanders, officers, and other ranks, the men of the difficult missions, and the heroic VII Army Corps for their courage and accurate performance in this decisive battle.

F-5 Downed 19 Apr

JN191004 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 19 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1155 [0755 GMT] today, an enemy F-5 plane, which attempted to cross the Shatt al-'Arab, was downed by antiaircraft forces of the heroic Presidential Guard Force.

[Dated] 19 April 1988

Commander on Al-Faw Battle

JN191106 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, April 19, INA—Commander of the Iraqi Army 7th Corps, Lt.-General Mahir 'Abdal-Rashid announced that Al-Faw liberation battle lasted less than two days and was charracterized by heroic, unique thrust of Iraqi forces.

Some calculations expected the battle to last between four to five days, yet, the fighters in a heroic thrust scored the goal at a record time, namely: all day long Sunday and some of yesterday morning, Lt.-General 'Abdal-Rashid said.

Speaking about Iraqi losses in Al-Faw battle, the Iraqi commander said "they are less than those sustained by the corps in any other battle...they are the less I have seen as a military commander."

In press statements published by AL-THAWRAH and AL-QADISIYAH paper today, Lt.-General 'Abdal-Rashid gave details about Al-Faw liberation battle. He said "the Iranian enemy expected to remain fotified in Al-Faw positions for years to come. It dug water canals and built earth embankments to hinder advance of Iraqi armoured columns, yet, all these fortifications collapsed in front of Iraqi forces' determination."

Lt.-General 'Abdal-Rashid added the enemy was taken aback and surprised by this battle, as it was not expecting what had happened it nor top secrecy that enshrouded it. The enemy was so panicked and confused by swiftness of execution, the speed with which targets fell and thrust of Iraqi forces who turned the enemy's positions and fortifications into debris.

Referring to military coordination among Iraqi forces that fought the battle of liberating Al-Faw, the Iraqi commander said "it is an exemplary state unprecedented in field operations. The Iranians suffered immense losses in men and a large number of their equipment, vehicles and tanks were destroyed. Iraqi Forces seized large quantities of the enemy weapons and supplies."

Lt.-General Mahir 'Abdal-Rashid, to be noted, is one of the two commanders who co-commanded field operations in the battle of liberating Al-Faw. The other is Major-General Iyad Flayyih al-Rawi, commander of the Republican Guards.

2 Iranian F-5's Downed

JN191306 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1250 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 19 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1145 [0745 GMT] today, two enemy F-5 planes that tried to violate our international borders on the warfront of the heroic VII Army corps were downed by the men of our antiaircraft defenses attached to our VII Army Corps. One of the two planes fell in enemy territory while the other fell on the other bank of the river in front of the heroic soldiers of the VII Army Corps. May God bless the endeavors of proud men. God be praised for this victory.

[Dated] 19 April 1988

Press Comments on 'Blessed Ramadan' Operation

JN181100 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Bahgdad, April 18, INA—Iraqi papers have unanimously agreed that "Blessed Ramadan" operations have been the severest blow to be dealt by Iraq to the Iranian enemy.

AL-THAWRAH paper today highlighted these operations, saying that they came as a surprise to the enemy, in terms of place and time. The Iraqi paper added "It is a strategic surprise that once again proved that initiative in the war was and is still in the hands of Iraqis, in spite of empty claims by the enemy."

"Blessed Ramadan" operations confirmed that victorious forces of Iraq could take the enemy by surprise and deal the toughest and most painful of blows to it when it was not expecting them, AL-THAWRAH added. Full cooperation and careful coordination among forces of the Republican Guards, the Iraqi Army 7th Corps and ground, naval and air units was a decisive factor in materializing the surprise and scoring the landslide victory, AL-THAWRAH reiterated.

Referring to the six missiles that were fired simultaneously into Tehran yesterday, AL-THAWRAH said the missiles came as a lightning to Tehran rulers. Reaction to the six Al-Husayn missiles would deepen Tehran rulers' military, political, psychological and economic defeat, putting them face to face with their impotency, despair and weakness, AL-THAWRAH daily remarked.

Commenting on the subject of "Blessed Ramadan" operations, AL-QADISIYAH military paper of Iraq said courageous fighters of the Republican Guards and forces of the Iraqi Army 7th Corps were now dealing deadly blows to Iranian villains, who mistakenly believed that they could desecrate sanctities of Iraq. Forces of Iraq, the stronger and more capable, were moving forward in closed ranks to liberate the land of Al-Faw inch by inch, AL-QADISIYAH paper mentioned.

Touching upon the same subject, AL-JUMHURIYAH paper of Iraq commented by saying "faithful soldiers of Iraq are now consecrating in the southernmost point of the homeland heroic acts, as their brethren did recently in the farthest northern spot in the country." Actions of Iraqi men, AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed, "are the voice of right that speaks louder than poor manoeuvres in lobbies of international organizations, fraud tricks, terrorism and other criminal foolish acts of the Zionists of Tehran and Tel Aviv."

Leaders React to Al-Wazir Death, Allegations

Shamir: Remarks 'Nonsense'

TA181124 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that the remarks of the U.S. NBC television network claiming that Israel is responsible for the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] are a lot of nonsense.

Our correspondent Jack Katzenell reports that the prime minister said this in a private meeting with an American Jewish Congress delegation, which took place in the Knesset.

TIME, NBC Reports 'Lies'

TA181152 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says the public is ignorant of moves he has initiated in relation to Jordan and the Soviet Union aimed at promoting the peace process. In a conversation with members of an American Jewish Congress delegation currently visiting Israel, Shamir defined the NBC and TIME magazine reports regarding the liquidation of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] as lies.

Refuses Further Comment

TA191144 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Talk in the studio between moderator Karmit Gay and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Excerpts] [Gay] The prime minister attended the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting which convened today. I would like to ask 'Oded Ben-'Ami, our political correspondent, was the Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] assassination on the committee's agenda?

[Ben-'Ami] It was mentioned by some of the committee members, but Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir refused to refer to the issue. [passage omitted]

As mentioned, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir refused to refer to the killing, despite the many ways we tried to phrase our questions. Leaving the committee session, he said:

[Begin Shamir recording] No, I do not think that I have to refer to this issue. [end recording]

[Ben-'Ami] He said this, and no more.

[Gay] Then what was the committee's agenda?

[Ben-'Ami] The subject was political: the peace process in the East, the political process, the U.S. stands, and those of the Soviet Union. The prime minister estimated that no change has taken place in the Soviet Union's stands. Mr Shamir referred to the remarks attributed to Soviet leader Gorbachev who allegedly told 'Arafat that it was time the PLO recognized Israel. The prime minister wondered at what he termed the excessive importance attached to Gorbachev's remarks. They contain nothing new.

He, Shamir, heard former Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko repeat this same persistent stand from which the Soviet Union does not budge. This stand states that the Soviet Union supports the recognition of Israel, an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders, and the establishment of a Palestinian state. If the Soviets now choose to move from this stand, the prime minister will welcome the change. In such a case, if Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze wishes to visit Israel during his Middle East tour, the prime minister will welcome him.

As for King Husayn, Mr Shamir does not believe that Husayn speaks of peace. The Jordanian king demands an Israeli withdrawal to 1967 lines, and he does not mention his rule of the territories knowing it is difficult, almost impossible. Husayn needs our withdrawal as his major contribution to the Arab world. Husayn has no interest in autonomy or the interim stages, and the prime minister believes the United States also did not give the interim stages a due emphasis in its proposal. Shamir believes that the Arabs want an international conference to get us out of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Remarks by Ambassador to FRG

DW181021 Hamburg BILD in German 18 Apr 88 p 10

[Interview with Ambassador to the FRG Yitzhaq Benari by correspondent Stepan Vogel; date, place not given]

[Text] BILD: Is there a threat of civil war breaking out in Israel after the murder of Abu Jihad?

Benari: No, I do not think so. What is happening there at present is not civil war. I am convinced that after 2-3 days the unrest because of Abu Jihad will be over.

BILD: Who triggered the murder?

Benari: There are many hostile groups in Palestinian society, groups that are in sharp discord. The murderers must be among them. Abu Jihad is erroneously considered here as one of the moderate Palestinian leaders. In fact, however, he was the military leader of Al-Fatah, which carried out numerous attacks in Europe and Israel—also against Arabs.

BILD: So it was not Israeli intelligence?

Benari: Certainly not.

BILD: Does the murder upset Secretary of State Shultz' peace initiative?

Benari: Yes. This is not the first time the PLO has fought a peace initiative with terrorist means. The most recent example was the car bomb that was found near Shultz' hotel in Jerusalem. I believe Shultz will carry on, but it is difficult to assess his chances of success.

BILD: Is there a connection between the PLO and the Shi'ite hijackers of the Kuwaiti jumo jet?

Benari: The PLO is at the center of terrorism and the terrorists cooperate on an international basis. Everyone goes his own way, but there is coordination and assistance. That is why talks between the PLO and the fundamentalist hijackers took place. So the PLO is indirectly connected to the hijacking.

Weizman: Killing 'Negative'

TA191044 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman has criticized the killing of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. He believes this will not be to Israel's advantage and will not put an end to terrorism, but on the contrary will step it up. Weizman was speaking in Haifa this morning.

[Begin Weizman recording] If I had today to decide whether to do it or not, I would decide in the negative, not to do it, because I think it does not contribute to the fight against terrorism. It accentuates the thing. There will be more extreme feelings, perhaps even doings. The Shultz and all the process we are trying to do is not being assisted with. Generally speaking, if you ask me if it is negative or positive, I say it is negative. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Shamir Vows To Fight PLO to 'Bitter End'

TA181553 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] The prime minister has said that Israel will not allow PLO terrorism to strengthen. Israel will fight it to the bitter end because only a strong Israel can deter its enemies, guarantee its existence, and embrace peace. He reiterated his call on the Arab countries to come to the table of direct negotiations. Shamir stressed that Israel was issuing this call from a position of strength and noted that any other interpretation would spell trouble and suffering.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that Mr Shamir was speaking in the Druze village of Julis this afternoon in a celebration marking Israel's 40th anniversary of independence and the 60th anniversary of Shaykh Amin Tarif's leadership of the Druze community. The celebration was also attended by President Hayim Herzog, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, and many Israeli public figures.

Sharon Advocates Attacks on All PLO Branches

TA180948 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] The PLO and all its branches—political, operational, and financial—should be attacked, said Minister Ari'el Sharon today during a tour of the north.

[Begin Sharon recording] I would not like to address the operation itself. I think the disappearance of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] from the arena is important. There are not many individuals with so much Jewish and other blood on their hands. For years I repeatedly said that it was necessary to deal with, attack, and eliminate the heads of the murderous terrorist organizations. Even though I do not wish to discuss those who perpetrated this specific operation, I believe that its result is very important. I think that without a doubt the memory of many victims, Jews and Arabs, in Eretz Yisra'el has been avenged justly. [end recording]

Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north, provided us with this excerpt of Minister Sharon's remarks.

Commentary on Goals, Impact of Al-Wazir Murder

TA171307 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Apr 88 pp 1, 12

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "The Goal: Punishment and Deterrence"]

[Text] According to media reports from Tunis, it was a commando unit that arrived by sea, probably on board a vessel that lay anchored off the Tunisian coast. It approached the shore in rubber dinghies and then made its way toward its destination in vehicles that were waiting on the beach.

These vehicles were hired by men bearing Lebanese passports who had been in Tunis for some time. They evidently led the task force to its target and escorted it back to the point of evacuation upon completion of the mission.

This method is reminiscent of the one employed by the IDF unit that raided Beirut in the 1970's and liquidated the terrorist leaders there. Another similarity, incidentally, between the present raid and the one in Beirut is that in the earlier operation there was also a lot of talk about a blonde woman who was with the unit.

The reports from Tunis add that the task force numbered approximately 30 people. Its men guarded the area of operation, maintaining watch over it and blocking access to it. Only a small, eight-member team entered the house. This mode of operation is characteristic of a unit that is well trained for such raids and has studied the area of the operation carefully. It therefore comes as no surprise that the terrorist organizations naturally assume that Israel had a hand in eliminating Abu Jihad.

Lord knows Khalil al-Wazir had enough enemies, but Israel, too, had sufficient and convincing motives to attack him:

—First, deterrence. Demonstrating the ability to strike with such precision at a target located thousands of kilometers from Israel can show the Palestinians and the Arabs as a whole that in every violent confrontation, Israel can still take risks and strike unexpectedly with a particularly painful blow. This comes as a timely reminder of the Entebbe operation.

Recently, the overriding view in the Arab world has been that Israel is growing weaker and that the IDF is bogged down by a debilitating and cumbersome routine that erodes its capability. The uprising in the territories has further strengthened that impression, so that more people have begun to adopt this line of thinking. If Israel truly carried out the operation, it would appear that the psychological impact of the attack on Abu Jihad will result in a rethinking of the matter. Any impressive demonstration of the Israeli military capability helps convince the Arabs that the liquidation of Israel by force is an unattainable goal. These two aspects render important the method by which Abu Jihad was killed.

—Another goal is deterring would-be PLO terrorists from joining that body. There will always be people who would join that organization and volunteer to take part in missions. But the fact that even the person who heads the operational branch is not immune to Israel's long arm—if indeed it was an Israeli operation—raises the psychological barrier against joining the terrorist organizations even higher and increases the element of fear.

—The third possible objective from the Israeli standpoint is punishing Abu Jihad and boosting the morale of at least part of the Israeli population. It should come as no surprise to us if we find out that there is a close link between the attack on the hostages near Dimona last month and the elimination of the man who sent the perpetrators of the act on their mission.

'Arafat will be hard pressed to find a replacement for Abu Jihad who will enjoy the dead man's status and qualifications. Yet Khalil al-Wazir's demise will not shatter the PLO leadership. It will not even undermine that organization's military branch. After a certain period of confusion and a race among possible contenders within Fatah ranks, a substitute will be found, and he, too, like Abu Jihad, will work tirelessly on initiating attacks in Israel and on seeking every possible avenue to preserve the same degree of momentum in the uprising in the territories.

Nonetheless, it is doubtful that the new man will enjoy Al-Wazir's authority among the inhabitants of the territories. Now, as the PLO is trying to resume control over the populace to jump on the bandwagon of intifadha, and after the [reactionary] wave of demonstrations and disturbances subsides, the elimination of Abu Jihad will probably have a calming effect on the uprising in the territories, bringing in its wake a further decline in the PLO's status among the populace.

The PLO is now threatening to abjure the Cairo accord and the undertaking to refrain from attacking Israel and Israelis abroad. This desire no doubt exists, but the PLO leaders will think twice before they return to the scene of international terrorism, thereby forfeiting the points they recently made in world opinion. We must therefore be ready for a reaction, but should not panic.

Shamir Sees No Role for UK in Peace Process

TA180600 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Apr 88 p 2

[Report by David Horovitz]

[Text] London—Prime Minister Shamir sees no role now for Britain in the peace process. That was the unmistakeable message conveyed to Middle East Under-Secretary Alan Monroe by Yosi Ben-Aharon, director-general of the prime minister's office, in talks at the Foreign Office here last week.

Ben-Aharon, according to reliable Israeli sources, accused the British of following an unbalanced policy in the Middle East—supplying weapons to the Arab world and standing by the 1980 Venice Declaration which demands a PLO role in peace negotiatons. Pressure for direct negotiations, these sources said, might well have led to something concrete by now.

According to the Israeli sources, there has been a reversal of roles between Britain and the Shamir camp in recent months. Whereas a year ago, Shamir aides were lamenting Britain's refusal to invite the premier to visit, it now appears that the British have woken up to the importance of cultivating Shamir, only to find that he wants nothing to do with them.

It is understood that Ben-Aharon stressed that while Shamir was adamantly opposed to an umbrella conference, he was still willing to attend a super-power summit at which the U.S. and Soviet Union would play host to Israeli and Jordanian negotiating teams.

This provoked British astonishment at Israel's preparedness to allow the Soviet Union a role, but not the British. Ben-Aharon is said to have asserted that Israel recognizes that both superpowers have interests in the region but maintains that Britain has none.

Apart from criticizing British policy in the Middle East, Ben-Aharon also chastised the Foreign Office over the condemnations of Israel it has been issuing regularly since the outbreak of unrest in the territories. Constructive suggestions were welcome, he said, but Israel didn't need advice from the outside about coexistence.

Then, sarcastically echoing the language used by Foreign Office Minister David Mellor during his highly-critical tour of the region in January, Ben-Aharon added that his criticisms, of course, were those of a friend, and that he hoped the British would interpret them in that light.

UK Prevents Novik Meeting With Soviet Official

TA190822 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
19 Apr 88 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Last week the British authorities prevented a senior Soviet official from entering London for the purpose of meeting Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser. The reason given by the British authorities was that the Soviet diplomat, Vladimir Terrasov was previously expelled from the United States, and an understanding between the two countries does not permit either country to grant visas to Soviet diplomats who have been expelled from the other.

The Soviet diplomat, Terrasov, from the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department, intended to discuss with Novik U.S.-Israeli relations and the international conference issue. The Israeli Foreign Ministry expected that in this meeting the Soviets would announce their granting of visas to an Israeli diplomatic delegation to the Soviet Union, a delegation which would be reciprocal to the Soviet consular delegation currently in Israel.

Novik reached London as planned, but Terrasov did not make it to the meeting because of Britain's refusal to grant him a visa. Novik may leave for another European capital shortly for continuing the contacts with the Soviets. People in Peres' office claim there is no negative turn in the contacts with the Soviets, and that the postponement of the meeting stems only from technical reasons. [passage omitted]

Novik Cites Delay in Moscow

TA180919 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
18 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Knesset Member Dan Meridor, acting as Prime Minister Shamir's envoy, held secret talks last week with a foreign personality in Vienna. On the other hand, Dr Nimrod Novik, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' adviser, returned to Israel last weekend, having failed to meet with senior Soviet diplomat Vladimir Terrasov. Novik told the Foreign Ministry that the meeting was postponed because the Soviet representative had been delayed in Moscow. Dr Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, was also unable to hold talks with Soviet officials during his visit to Europe.

Foreign Ministry officials expressed disappointment with the fact that the Soviet Union has so far failed to issue visas to the Israeli diplomatic delegation due to leave for Moscow. The Soviets have not yet said when the visas can be expected. [passage omitted]

'No Significance' in Soviet Visit Postponement

TA190839 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
19 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will not arrive in this region, but will meet at the end of the week in Moscow with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz as scheduled.

Foreign Ministry sources in Jerusalem said that although Shevardnadze had announced that he would arrive on a tour of the region, he had mentioned no date. Therefore, they attach no significance to the postponement of the visit.

The sources hope that in the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting, the United States and Soviet Union will reach an understanding on the peace process, thus giving a renewed momentum to the U.S. political initiative.

If such an understanding is indeed achieved, Secretary of State Shultz will return to the region and will present Middle East capitals with draft invitations to an international conference scheduled to open in May in Geneva. Israel will then be obliged, for the first time, to give an unequivocal answer—either positive or negative—to the Shultz plan.

USSR Permitting Reciprocal Tourist Visits

TA171525 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
17 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by Amir Rosenblitt]

[Excerpts] The Soviet authorities have recently allowed immigrants living in Israel to visit their relatives in the Soviet Union. At the same time, Soviet Jews are allowed to visit Israel as tourists.

A group of Soviet Jewish tourists is currently staying in Beersheba, where the largest number of Soviet immigrants (about 25,000) reside. Some Beersheba residents are now visiting the Soviet Union.

David Soreq, chairman of the Public Council for Soviet Jewry and of the Association of Soviet Immigrants, told the DAVAR correspondent that a basic change has recently been noted in the Soviet policy toward the Jews, one of its expressions being that Jews are permitted to leave the Soviet Union for visits in Israel, while Israeli relatives are allowed into the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Soreq also told our reporter that he knows of two immigrants who until recently lived in Beersheba and who have gone back to the Soviet Union for good, with the permission of the authorities. During this past year hundreds of immigrants from the Soviet Union, some of which have lived in Israel for 10 years, have applied to return to the Soviet Union.

They send letters to Mikhail Gorbachev, pester the Finnish Embassy in Tel Aviv, write and phone the Soviet Embassies in Vienna and Nicosia and the Red Cross center in Geneva. In the past the Soviets have not even answered such requests. Recently, however, there has been a drastic change of policy, and this kind of approach also gets a response.

Sharir, Navon Meet With Polish Officials

Discuss Nazi Criminals

TA160500 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Poland's Justice Minister Kazimier Konkol [name and title as heard] has promised that the Polish authorities will continue to seek out Nazi war criminals and bring them to trial. At a meeting in Warsaw with Israel's Justice Minister Avraham Sharir, Professor Konkol said about 5,700 Nazis had been prosecuted in Poland and most had been convicted. Sharir said there are still about 3,000 war criminals left in Poland. Sharir presented to Konkol about 30 bound volumes containing the protocols of the Demjanjuk trial as a mark of appreciation for Poland's cooperation in finding evidence in the case.

'Highest-Level Meeting'

TA180644 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Apr 88 pp 1, 3

[Report by Greer Fay Cashman and agencies]

[Excerpt] Ministers Yitzhaq Navon and Avraham Sharir met yesterday in Warsaw with Mieczyslaw Rakowski, a Politburo member and deputy speaker of the Polish Parliament, in the highest-level meeting ever between Israeli and Polish officials.

The ministers are in Poland to attend the commemorative events marking the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. According to a spokesman for Sharir, they offered Israel's assistance towards improving Poland's ailing economy.

Sharir told Rakowski that Poland did not need to get bogged down by heavy loans from the USSR. He said that Israel was willing to share its wide-ranging economic know-how with Poland. He also proposed increases in tourism between Poland and Israel.

Navon later said that he had told Rakowski that he hoped Poland and Israel could eventually normalize relations. "I see some change in the attitude of Poland toward Israel," he added. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 18 April reports that "Mieczyslaw Rakowski told 70 Israelis, including Education Minister Yitzhaq Navon and Justice Minister Avraham Sharir, that resumption of full diplomatic ties with Israel must be preceded by a Middle East peace settlement. This would have to include full respect for Palestinian rights."]

Demjanjuk Convicted on All Indictment Charges

TA181815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Excerpts] About 30 minutes ago, the special court in Jerusalem pronounced defendant John Ivan Demjanjuk as being Ivan the Terrible of Treblinka, and convicted him on all the charges in the indictment. Demjanjuk was convicted of having committed crimes against the Jewish people and against humanity, of having committed war crimes, and crimes against persecuted persons. The sentence will be issued next Monday morning. [passage omitted]

Ivan Demjanjuk himself was not present in the court today when he ceased being a defendant and became a convicted war criminal; his family was also not present. [passage omitted]

Rabin on Territories Unrest, Al-Wazir Murder

TA181135 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Dan Eshel in Tel Aviv on 18 April—recorded]

[Text] [Rabin] Except for last Saturday, we are witnessing a decreasing trend in violent activities, a calmer atmosphere, although not as calm as we would like it to be. I believe the systematic measures the IDF and the other security bodies in the territories are using will produce results. The goals of the IDF—the attainment of calm and the reinforcement of the Civilian Administration and local government—will be achieved, enabling local residents to lead a normal life.

[Eshel] Sir, NBC and TIME magazine said that Israel is behind the Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] assassination. What are your views on this subject?

[Rabin] Ask TIME and NBC.

6 Bayta Residents, 2 Others Expelled to Lebanon

6 Withdraw Deportation Appeals

TA181533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Six villagers of Bayta who were issued deportation orders have withdrawn their petitions to the military appeals committee. Their lawyer says that his clients believe the deportations are based on political rather than operational reasons, that the orders were issued before the truth about what happened in the village had been learned, and that the High Court of Justice's rulings on deportations do not leave them any hope. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this move clears the way for the deportation of the six.

More on Deportations

TA191432 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1418 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Here is a report we have just received: Another eight individuals, six of them residents of Bayta, have been expelled to Lebanon. Our military correspondent Alon Ben-David reports from the studio:

Eight inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria were deported from Israel this afternoon. They were taken by helicopter to the security strip in southern Lebanon, from where they proceeded northward into Lebanon. The expulsion order against the eight was issued because they had been involved in organizing and participating in the violent disturbances in Judaea and Samaria over the last few months.

Six of the deportees are residents of Bayta in Samaria. They had taken part in the incident in which the late Tirtza Porat was killed. As will be recalled, the six rescinded their appeal against the deportation order. Consequently, they were expelled today.

Names, Details of Deportees

TA191524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Israel today deported to Lebanon another eight residents of Judaea and Samaria suspected of incitement and of organizing disruptions of public order. Six of them are inhabitants of Bayta. REUTER reported that they were flown by helicopter to Hasbayya in the security strip.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that all the Bayta deportees took active part in the attack on the Elon More children. One of them, Najah Jamil Duwayqat, was one of the main instigators who led the hikers to the center of the village. Another deportee, Mahmud 'Abd Ibrahim Jub, seized the personal weapon from escort Romam Aldubi. Others threw rocks at the children and incited the villagers to attack them. Also among the deportees is Ahmad Fawzi Biq, a leading Al-Shabibah figure from Bi'r Zayt University.

With the expulsion of the eight, the overall number of deportees since the beginning of the uprising has reached 20.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 19 April adds that "a resident of the village of (Diq) in the Ramallah area and a resident of Nabulus are among the deportees. The deportees are young people between 20 and 35 years old. Some of them served prison terms previously for subversive hostile activity."]

Mitzna' To Free Young Detainees for Ramadan

TA151734 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Interview with Major General 'Amram Mitzna' by unidentified correspondent on 15 April; place not given—videotaped in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Correspondent] Gen Mitzna', when do you intend to submit the report on the Bayta incident to the chief of staff? Have you received this report already?

[Mitzna'] I have still not received the report. When the investigation ends we will submit the report and bring it to the knowledge of the authorities, and I assume also to the public's knowledge.

[Correspondent] Do you think it will be a long time yet?

[Mitzna'] It will take several more days.

[Correspondent] Gen Mitzna', except for the incident in Nabulus yesterday, there have been several days of calm in the territories. How do you see the future?

[Mitzna'] I cannot give assessments. I sincerely hope that this calm—and that is also how we see the situation—will continue and that the territories will calm down. I have no doubt that this situation partly stems from the steps we have taken, and we will continue to take the same steps until the territories calm down.

[Correspondent] Gen Mitzna', yesterday IDF soldiers shot and killed a Nabulus youth who was about to hurl a brick at IDF soldiers. Have you changed the shooting orders? Is the Army reacting more firmly in terms of shooting in such situations?

[Mitzna'] We react firmly. We change the orders in accordance with the different circumstances. Whoever dares to endanger our soldiers is risking being hurt or killed. Everyone has to understand this.

[Correspondent] Gen Mitzna', your predecessors in the post have made it a tradition on the eve of the Ramadan to release security prisoners as a gesture of goodwill. Do you intend to do the same thing?

[Mitzna'] Certainly. I have visited one of our detention facilities here—we have several such facilities. The recent period of calm, or rather a trend in the direction of calm, certainly enables us to start thinking about such things, not necessarily in relation to the Ramadan. I will even say more than this: We intend to enable the Arab public to celebrate the holiday in accordance to its traditions and religious practices.

We are giving our soldiers the appropriate orders in this regard to prevent any unnecessary confrontation. I sincerely hope that the Arab public living in the territories will behave as we expect it to, otherwise we will have to react forcefully even during the holiday. Now to answer your question: I indeed intend to release detainees—I intend to release all the youths up to 16 years of age, except for those whose acts were grave. We intend to do this within in the next few days.

[Correspondent] What is the number involved?

[Mitzna'] Several dozen. I do not know the precise number, I assume it is several dozen. In the next few days we also plan to lift the curfews from places which are still under curfew, again with the hope that our message will be well received and that the Ramadan month will pass with every man acting according to his traditions and religious practices and with the hope that the violence will indeed end.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Nabulus Mayor 'Ready To Resign'

TA191047 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Sources in the Civilian Administration say that Nabulus Mayor Hafiz Tuqan has not submitted his resignation. This is in the wake of reports that Tuqan is getting ready to resign. Still the reports are worrisome to security officials, who fear that Tuqan's resignation could set off a wave of resignations in other Arab municipalities in the territories. [passage omitted]

Umm al-Fahm Mourns Al-Wazir

TA171405 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Apr 88 p 2

[Report by Qasim Zayyad]

[Excerpt] A mourning procession to protest the murder in Tunisia of Yasir 'Arafat's deputy Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, was held in Umm al-Fahm yesterday afternoon. Slogans denouncing the assassins and the murder of 12 civilians in towns throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and supporting the continuation of the uprising were chanted during the procession.

Using loudspeakers, members of the Umm al-Fahm chapter of the public aid committee to the inhabitants of the territories called on the town's people to fly black flags in mourning over the slaying of Abu Jihad. [passage omitted]

AL-FAJR Protests Censorship

JN170850 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] The Jerusalem daily AL-FAJR did not appear this morning. The chief editor Hanna Sinyurah told AFP last night that the paper's management decided to take this action to protest Israeli military censorship. The Israeli military censorship has banned all articles on the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and on conditions in the area. AL-FAJR chief editor said that the Israeli authorities also banned blank spaces in the paper indicating censored articles. In this case, he said, the paper was left with nothing else to publish.

Security Inmates Mourn Al-Wazir

TA190817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Security inmates in Israeli prisons have declared 3 days of mourning for Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. To commemorate Abu Jihad, they read chapters of the Koran and gather in study groups to discuss his life and beliefs. Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that Abu Jihad handled matters involving security prisoners for the PLO.

2 Killed; AL-'AWDAH Closed

TA181545 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] There were two fatalities in the Gaza Strip today. In the Tall al-Sultan neighborhood of Rafah a 20-year-old youth was killed by shots fired by the commander of an IDF patrol who was forced to use live ammunition after a riot. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv adds that the body of a female resident of the Zaytun neighborhood in Gaza was brought to 'Alali Hospital in the town after being shot according to the hospital administration. The IDF said it does not know of any incident in this area which could have resulted in the woman being hit. The woman's family took her body for burial, therefore there is no possibility of continuing the investigation into the incident.

In Judaea and Samaria, the curfews on Nabulus and the refugee camps continue. The commercial strike and the quiet also continue.

The Interior Ministry decided today to close the Palestinian newspaper AL-'AWDAH. Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat has the details:

The Interior Ministry today via Eliyahu Suissa, the official responsible for the Jerusalem district, sent an order to close the Palestinian newspaper AL-'AWDAH which is published in Jerusalem in English and Arabic. The Interior Ministry said the newspaper is funded by the terrorist organizations, used by them as a publicity tool, and is operated by them. The order was sent to Ibrahim Karim, the newspaper's editor. The Palestine News Service, which he headed with Raymonda Tawil, was closed several weeks ago for six months. The editors of the newspaper can present their objections to the decision by 1 May, that is within 2 weeks.

In reaction to the closure, Ibrahim Karim said it is the result of the Israeli policy which regards the press as a negative element. Karim emphatically denied the charges against AL-'AWDAH and the Palestine Press Service. He plans to transfer the issue to his attorney Amnon Zikhrony.

Other developments in Jerusalem today: There was a demonstration by Arab students in front of the administration building of the Hebrew University on the Mount of Olives. Eight of them attacked the university's security personnel and were arrested. The demonstration was probably in memory of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and tempers have now calmed down on the campus.

In Judaea and Samaria, the curfews continue on the town of Nabulus and on 15 refugee camps. A number of major towns remain closed military zones. The commercial strike continues, but half of the laborers again left for work. Quiet was in general maintained in Judaea and Samaria.

An Israeli citizen was attacked near Hebron, where he was travelling along the Beersheba-Jerusalem road, and he abandoned his vehicle. The vehicle was later set on fire. Security forces started a search.

In Ari'el, several mayors and heads of local councils from both sides of the Green Line held a meeting with Minister Moshe Qatzav and other Likud activists. It was decided at the meeting to unite on several actions, including a hike by school children from various parts of Israel on the 30th day of the death of Tirtza Porat. It was also decided to mobilize residents from the coastal area to keep guard on settlements in Samaria. Those who attended, including the mayors of Herzliyya, and Yavne, and the heads of the Bet Shemesh and Ari'el local councils decided to call for the imposition of Israeli law on Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

Following the meeting it was decided to end the sit-in by Judaea and Samaria council heads outside the prime minister's residence. The sit-in was set up in order to persuade the government to take action following the murder in Bayta. The government's response, including the blowing up of houses in the village and the expulsion orders against six of its inhabitants show that the sit-in was successful.

Curfew Update; 2 Papers Banned

TA190517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] In Judaea and Samaria, curfews remain in force in Nabulus, 'Anabta, 'Azzun, and in 15 refugee camps.

Two East Jerusalem newspapers, AL-FAJR and AL-NAHAR, were yesterday banned from distribution in the territories. Earlier, the weekly AL-'AWDAH was warned that the Interior Ministry intends to close it down.

Al-Wazir Home Closed Area

TA190738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] An Israeli car was set on fire in Hebron this morning. The car was parked near the Makhpelah Cave. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. The police have launched an investigation. A car caught between stone barricades in Hebron was set on fire yesterday. The driver fled from the site, abandoning the car.

The Gaza Strip security forces reimposed curfews on three neighborhoods of the Rafah refugee camp. Four other refugee camps are under curfew today, as well as the town of 'Abasan. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the area around the home of Abu Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir] family was declared a closed military area. Local residents are allowed to enter the house on condolence visits, while reporters and strangers are being kept away.

Closed Communist Party Paper's Editor Arrested

TA160454 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Jerusalem police have arrested Ya'aqov Ben-Efrat, one of the editors of the Hebrew- and Arabic-language newspaper THE WAY OF THE SPARK which was recently closed down for subversion. Ben-Efrat's family say the police would not explain why he was being arrested. The journal reflected the views of the Israeli Communist Party.

King Congratulates Saddam Husayn on 'Victory'
JN191855 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn made a telephone call to His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn this evening to congratulate him on the brave Iraqi Army's restoration and liberation of the Al-Faw peninsula from the Iranian invaders.

His majesty congratulated his brother President Saddam Husayn on this victory and hailed the Iraqi Army and fraternal Iraqi people. President Saddam Husayn expressed his deep appreciation for and pride in His Majesty King Husayn's support for Iraq and the Arab nation's causes.

King Husayn Hails Army in Anniversary Letter
JN162041 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Apr 88

["Text" of letter from King Husayn to Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, on the 35th anniversary of the king's assumption of his constitutional powers, dated 16 April 1988]

[Excerpts] His Excellency Brother Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

I send greetings of appreciation, love, and trust to all of you, commanders, officers, NCO's, and all the men in the Arab Legion, the Jordanian Armed Forces—land, naval, and Air Force units, as well as all personnel in the Popular Army. I also express my sincere love, trust, and appreciation for the men and women of this country on these days when we are preparing to receive the blessed month of Ramadan in which the Koran was revealed as a guidance to man and which coincides with the passage of 35 calender years since I was honored by God to shoulder the responsibility of service in this part of the greater Arab homeland and among this beloved Jordanian family. [passage omitted]

These days, while we work as we always did to realize Arab reconciliation and to effect an agreement on the means to save the nation and remove obstacles so the Arabs could win the respect of both their friends and enemies, this Arab family, to which I belong, chooses to honor me. I praise God Who permitted this family to exist, and I understand what we have realized. Our active Army has reached a great level, which pleases our hearts and consciences, thanks to its members who are the best in this country in terms of their performance, training, alertness, and morality. They have epitomized the genuine Arab militancy. They are supported by a great reserve force and a popular army which regards national duty as sacred. They are backed by a security force and a civil defense force equipped with and skilled in using the most modern weapons and equipment. These forces form an impregnable shield to protect the nation against the greedy and the follies of the misguided ones. They are a hope that fills the heart of the sincere sons of this nation.

With world support, our nation has agreed on a call for an international conference to establish just, honorable peace acceptable to future generations, peace that would leaq to the end of occupation in the Palestinian and Arab territories, occupied since 1967; a solution to the Palestinian problem in all its aspects; the Palestinian right of self-determination; and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions Numbers 438 and 242, which stipulates the inadmissibility of occupying the territory of others by war. If the world moves and responds to our call, our clear stand to the far and near will not change.

We in Jordan will not negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people nor on behalf of their representative, the PLO, but will participate in the international peace conference as an independent, soveriegn state. We have no objection to proceeding to the international conference within a joint delegation composed of a Jordanian delegation and a Palestinian delegation if the Arabs and Palestinians accept this arrangement. We will back the Palestinian people with our resources so they might realize and be certain that we have no aim, objective, ambition, or goal except to help them reach their legitimate national rights on their soil.

Indeed, we have never had any goal, aim, or any ambition in them or in their land since the Great Husayn, the leader of the Great Arab Revolt, adopted his pan-Arab stand, and since the Arab Legion rushed to save Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the West Bank in 1948 under the leadership of his martyr son [King 'Abdallah]. This has been going on throughout the years and in all the successive vicissitudes until today. [passage omitted] [Dated] 16 April 1988

Prime Minister Addresses Talks on 'Uprising'
JN141215 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14-15 Apr 88 pp 1, 4

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has said that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza should be used politically to achieve its objectives.

"We do not believe that political exploitation of the uprising will abort the revolt...supporting the uprising and enabling it to achieve its objectives is a duty," the prime minister said Tuesday in an address to a gathering organised by the American University Alumni Club.

"If we want to maintain the current international momentum and efforts for peace in the Middle East we should nurture the momentum of the uprising...," Al-Rifa'i said. "If the uprising ends then the U.S. initiative will stop and the international community's interest in the problem will come to an end," he said.

"We used to hear people say that political moves were pointless without a pan-Arab action which can exert pressure and affect the situation and this argument was justified in the past," the prime minister said.

"But, we now have a pressure factor represented in the uprising which led to the current international moves but we still hear someone ask why should we talk to (U.S. Secretary of State George) Shultz and why should we take part in peace efforts which could abort the uprising."

"When we review U.S. efforts to settle the Middle East problem we notice that after 1967 U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 was issued thanks to American approval," he said. "Following that resolution the Gonar Jarring mission started, followed by the Rogers initiative, the 1973 war and Security Council Resolution 438—which also came upon U.S. initiative—and finally the question of an international conference," Al-Rifa'i said.

"After the 1973 war, the Kissinger shuttles began, followed by the disengagement of forces in Sinai and the Camp David accords," Al-Rifa'i added. "Once the situation settled, U.S. efforts stopped, only to resume after the outbreak of the new Middle East war which is the uprising..."

Al-Rifa'i said the momentum of the ongoing uprising should be maintained so as to keep international peace efforts alive.

Abu 'Awdah: Uprising Most Significant Development

Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah also addressed Tuesday's gathering, describing the uprising as the most significant development in the region in the past two decades.

"The uprising clearly declares that the Palestinian people will continue to seek freedom like all other people who suffered under colonial rule and finally won liberation," he said.

"The uprising means that the Palestinians under occupation have realised the objectives of Israel's plans of uprooting the Arab population from their homeland, and they decided to resist such plans," Abu 'Awdah said.

"The driving force behind this uprising," he added, "is a generation of young people who came to know the Israelis as aliens living in their midst, unlike the image in the minds of the earlier generations which envisaged Israel as a military force and a conqueror. Moreover, the youths taking part in the uprising are being supported by all political groups which see all hope and aspiration for salvation embodied in these youth's actions."

Abu 'Awdah said the uprising was tantamount to an all-out popular revolt and had "rectified two important equations that have existed over the past 20 years:

"First, the Palestinian equation. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has succeeded over the past 20 years in making informational and political gains-...which prompted the other party in the equation—the Arab people under occupation—to decide to shoulder their own burden of resisting the occupation.

"Second, the relationship between the colonial power with the Palestinian people under Israeli rule. This relationship had been in a state of imbalance over the past years and the Palestinians had to adapt themselves to new developments in the region to an extent that Israeli leaders bragged that they needed only 500 policemen in the occupied territories to control their affairs and security."

Abu 'Awdah said: "Over these years Israel used to make an annual $80 million profit from ruling the occupied territories; but in the first two months of the uprising Israel is estimated to have lost $400 million."

In addition, he said, Israel has been exposed as a colonial power at a time when the world is witnessing an end to the colonial era.

Barrier of Fear Broken

"In fact, Israel is in an embarrassing situation before the world since it is confronting with terrorism a people determined to resist occupation with sticks and stones," the court minister said.

"The uprising has broken the barrier of fear separating the Palestinians from the colonial rulers and succeeded in bringing the PLO to the limelight of international attention after a long absence.

"The uprising has brought about the U.S. proposals and stimulated the world's attention towards resolving the Middle East problem."

Abu 'Awdah noted that the uprising had brought about international sympathy for the Palestinians and reactivated efforts for a just peaceful solution for the Middle East issue.

On the Arab front, he said, the uprising has drawn a tremendous show of joy and overwhelming delight and Arab countries to be rallied behind the uprising. "The uprising focused attention on Jordan's coordination of efforts with the PLO and other Arab parties vis-a-vis the U.S. initiative leading to the six-point document handed to the U.S. secretary of state by His Majesty King Husayn," Abu 'Awdah said. "The uprising, which came about as a result of oppression, took Israel by surprise and prompted its government to retaliate with more repressive measures."

The uprising, the minister said, "expresses the Palestinian people's desire for freedom and a peaceful end to the Israeli occupation."

"The U.S., which has always supported Israel, now ought to reconsider its position if a peaceful settlement is to be realised," Abu 'Awdah said. He said the six-point Jordanian document can rightly be considered the strongest form of support for the uprising so far and perhaps the strongest since the 1967 War."

Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah also spoke at the gathering and stressed that the Palestinian uprising "is an expression of the healthy Arab situation and a manifestation of the Arab Nation's capability to preserve its identity."

"The uprising is another image of the heroic stand of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Battle of Al-Karamah and in the battles of Palestine in 1948 and resembles the Iraqi armed forces' honourable stand in defence of Arab soil in the face of Iranian aggression, and the Syrian armed forces in confronting the Israeli army in the 1973 war," Al-Khasawinah said.

He said the Jordanian government maintains a high level of candid relationship and free dialogue and mutual rspect with the PLO.

"The continued dialogue with the PLO has led to discussions about the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace negotiations, and the dialogue is continuing in a most positive atmosphere, leading, hopefully, to resolutions that can serve the Palestinian cause," the information minister said.

Referring to the U.S. peace proposals, Al-Khasawinah said the Arab World should not act in a hostile manner towards the U.S. despite its biased attitude towards Israel. The Arab World should rather resist what is harmful to Arab interests in U.S. policies because the U.S. is the most likely arena where the Arab points of view can be accepted," he said.

The information minister noted that King Husayn insists that invitation for attending the international conference should be sent to all parties including the PLO "because Jordan, in its national stand, competes with no other Arab party and does not seek to represent the Palestinian people."

'Black September' Statement on Amman Car Bomb

NC190744 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
18 Apr 88 p 8

[Excerpt] In a statement it has sent to AL-NAHAR, the "Black September" organization claims responsibility for an explosion in a parking lot in the Amman municipal building the day before yesterday.

In the statement, the organization says: "The Black September organization claims responsibility for the explosion targeted at the central headquarters of the Amman municipality. The operation is part of a series that our organization has pledged to carry out against the agent regime in Jordan. The explosion resulted in the burning of the nine-storey building, which intelligence organs use as an operation room to plan their filthy operations against our kinfolks' revolution in Palestine and against the sons and strugglers of our Arab, Jordanian-Palestinian people in Jordan.

"The operation is also a response to all of the misleading campaigns launched by this regime's media which claim that that regime is backed by the masses and the clans. The masses of our Arab Jordanian people will refuse to stand still when the agent regime commits its crimes against our peoples' revolution in Palestine." [passage omitted]

Iraq Conducts 'Successful' Jordan-PLO Mediation

JN181041 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic
0930 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] In today's issue, AL-ITTIHAD says that in the past few days, Iraq has carried out successful mediation between Jordan and the PLO to bring their viewpoints closer on ways to resume their common political coordination on regional and international levels.

The paper quotes informed sources in Beirut as saying that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn sent Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Amman last week. 'Aziz held an unannounced long meeting with King Husayn in the presence of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and a number of senior Jordanian officials. The sources added that following this meeting, the Jordanian monarch sent Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah to Baghdad where he met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The Jordanian minister informed 'Arafat of all the Jordanian-U.S. contacts and the Jordanian stand on these contacts.

The sources affirmed the success of the Iraqi mediation which was preceeded by Egyptian mediation for the same prupose. The sources said that the arrival of Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, in Amman a few days ago came as a result of these contacts. Al-Hasan was preparing for 'Arafat's visit to Amman.

AL-RA'Y Notes Officials Appointed, Retired

JN171027 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
17 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—The cabinet met yesterday under Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. During its meeting the cabinet decided to appoint Munir al-Durrah as secretary general of the Ministry of Information, Hani al-'Amad as secretary general of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Rayyan as secretary general of the Audit Bureau as of 20 April 1988.

The cabinet also decided to retire Musa al-Kilani, director general of the Press and Publications Department, as of 17 April 1988.

UN Veto Will 'Endanger' U.S. Interests

JN160753 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
16 Apr 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Security Council and the U.S. Veto"]

[Text] While the Security Council continues its discussion of Israel's oppressive measures in the occupied Arab territories, the Israeli occupation authorities continue their oppressive policy and terrorist practices without any consideration for the Security Council and the remarkable political and moral value of this lofty international body.

Undoubtedly, this Israeli disdain of the Security Council, the United Nations, and others, is due to the fact that the Hebrew state enjoys full U.S. political protection. The United States has often supported Israel against all Security Council members and UN members. Indeed, blind and unjustified U.S. support for the policies of a terrorist and expansionist state is what made Israel bold enough to violate the most fundamental human rights and scorn all international organizations' resolutions. This support is unique and unmatched by any country in the world.

The United States has officially expressed its objection to the policy of deporting Palestinian citizens from their homes. The United States also renewed this objection after the recent deportation of eight Palestinians. Despite this, reports yesterday said the U.S. representative at the Security Council used the veto against a draft resolution calling on Israel to rescind such condemned policy.

The Security Council is discussing developments in the volatile situation in the occupied Arab territories for the sixth time. We believe that another U.S. veto of this discussion will not only escalate Israeli terrorism and extremism, but will also hinder peace efforts in the region. It will also undermine any U.S. credibility in the Middle East and endanger long-term U.S. interests in this sensitive region.

Columnist Criticizes Media Handling of News

JN181250 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
18 Apr 88 p 4

["Open Forum" column: "Hoping for the Better" by Marwan al-Mu'ashshir]

[Text] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the number two man in the PLO, was assassinated Saturday morning in Tunis. A news item as important as this deserved sixth place on Jordan TV's main news bulletin Saturday evening. A car bomb exploded the same day in Amman municipality building, causing some material damage. That item landed eighth place on the same news bulletin. And a water tanker, in an incident whose relationship with the bomb was ignored by the official media, lost control while coming to the scene of the explosion and tragically killed six Jordanians. That item deserved tenth place on that bulletin.

I think I speak for many Jordanians who are infuriated with our official media's set of priorities in informing citizens about what is going on. We are Arabs, and we care about events around us that have a direct effect on us. We should expect that the news gets the proper exposure it deserves. We are living in Amman, not in Rio de Janeiro or Sydney.

We are an educated, intelligent and aware people, proud of our country, our leadership and our traditions. It seems to me that in cases such as these, we are being treated insensitively by our official media, at a time when we Jordanians should be fully informed by our own media about events that take place in our midst so that we could have the facts required to work together as a united country to face up to any dangers and to foil any plots directed at us. A well informed citizenry is vital to genuine public welfare, particularly in a turbulent region such as ours.

'Sources' Cited on Higgins' Whereabouts

NC190811 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 18 Apr 88 p 7

[Text] According to informed sources, UNIFIL's U.S. officer Higgins, who was kidnapped a few weeks ago, has not been traced in the south. The same sources said that the kidnappers have not been able to transfer him to Beirut.

Therefore, it is believed that the captors may have moved Higgins to Al-Biqa' using back roads, perhaps crossing some of the contact lines with the Lahd army [South Lebanese Army] at times, leading to Ba'labakk through western Al-Biqa'. Higgins could also have been transferred to Beirut in a diplomatic car.

Businessmen Working To Free French Hostages

NC172018 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] The AKHBAR LUBNAN NEWS AGENCY has reported that two businessmen, 'Imran Adham and Mahdi Tajir, have been in Beirut for the past few days holding intensive contacts with spiritual and political leaders in an attempt to secure the release of the French hostages. 'Imran Adham affirmed in Paris last week that the release of the hostages was imminent.

Al-Jumayyil Phones Kuwaiti Ruler on Hijacking

NC121933 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil telephoned Kuwaiti ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad this evening and conveyed Lebanon's condemnation of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner. He also expressed his condolences on the two victims killed by the hijackers. He stressed Lebanon's solidarity with Kuwait in the delicate circumstances this fraternal country is passing through. He repeated his denunciation of the series of recent acts of aggression against Kuwaiti territory and interests. He thanked the amir for the aid he has sent to Lebanon.

Shi'ites Condemn Hijacking

NC131535 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council has reiterated its position of encouraging all positive factors promoting understanding and detente. The council expressed its understanding of the steps taken by the General Labor Federation, noting however that strikes do not constitute an effective remedy and warning against an indefinite general strike. The council condemned the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane, describing it as an illegitimate and cowardly act.

The Council stressed that under present circumstances it is necessary for the Amal Movement to be in charge of security in the south. It cautioned against issuing provocative statements that foment sedition and called upon parties belonging to the Islamic resistance in the south to reach a formula that ensures the continuity of the resistance.

The Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council held its regular meeting today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Council, and in the presence of Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, Ja'farite mufti; and members of the Council.

PSP Criticizes Al-Wazir Assassination

NC182003 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The PSP Political Bureau met today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad, deputy party leader and secretary general. It renewed its condemnation of the assassination of the prominent Palestinian national leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], noting that from the very first moment the assassination was clearly identifiable as a U.S.-Israeli crime and another facet of the confrontation of the Palestinian people's uprising. The bureau expressed its belief that the great loss represented by leader Abu Jihad's martyrdom will not deter the Palestinian people's determination or weaken the strugglers who are resisting the occupation. The bureau noted that the uprising's response has taken the form of a mixture of popular anger and determination to confront the occupation authorities which have perpetrated brutal massacres of large numbers of citizens.

The Political Bureau asserted that the PSP emphasizes the need to confront U.S.-Zionist terrorism and this unrestrained hostility with every method at the disposal of our people and nation and with the solidarity of all patriotic forces to extend real support to the Palestinian people's uprising, which has demonstrated its full ability to thwart all attempts to contain or abort it.

The PSP Political Bureau statement declares that the war of confiscation and terrorist piracy which the United States and Israel are waging against the PLO and the Palestinian people's leaders must be firmly confronted, unifying the forces of Palestinian struggle and renewing the confrontation program under the banner of ending the occupation and restoring the Palestinian people's national rights.

The PSP Political Bureau warned of the seriousness of this stage in view of this multifaceted U.S.-Israeli onslaught. It noted the renewed U.S. role in the Gulf war and the Lebanese isolationists' support for U.S. aggression, which they authorize.

The PSP Political Bureau also discussed information available on Amin al-Jumayyil and his isolationist group's positions regarding the U.S.-Syrian negotiations and the political reform proposals. The bureau noted that the discussion has stalled over isolationist group proposals designed to obstruct any plan for political reform or reconciliation by clinging to sectarian privileges. The bureau noted that the isolationist group seeks to gain time and create new complexities in the Lebanese crisis by profiting from the current U.S.-Israeli climate. It urged all patriotic forces to unite in confronting these developments. [passage omitted]

Shams al-Din on Al-Wazir

NC182145 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy leader of the Supreme Shi'ite Council, has commented on regional developments, declaring that the United States and Israel continue their fierce, aggressive onslaught against Muslims. Following the recent U.S.-Israeli stand on the Palestinian uprising, the United States exercised its veto powers against the Palestinian people, women, and children. In addition, Palestinian struggler Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] was assassinated by Israelis with U.S. approval. The Israelis are killing Palestinians en masse because they have denounced the assassination of Abu Jihad. The latest but not final act in this series is the new U.S. aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He noted that the mere presence of U.S. warships in the Gulf is a provocative act against all Muslims that violates dignity and (?harms) their interests. He condemned and denounced this new U.S. act of aggression.

Sham'un Defends Program, Rejects Sectarianism

PM141331 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12 Apr 88 p 13

[Interview with National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un by Fadlu Hadaya in Beirut; date not specified]

[Text] [Hadaya] In your program, on the basis of which you announced your presidential candidacy, you disregarded two fundamental issues asked for by the Lebanese Front: political decentralization and neutrality. Why did you overlook these two requirements?

[Sham'un] With respect to neutrality, a plan exists in our program. With respect to political decentralization, we are not in favor of this plan, because in any federation or confederation there is nothing called political decentralization. This sort of decentralization means partition. You may come across administrative decentralization, which I have mentioned in my program. With respect to decentralization, it is a word invented in Lebanon, meaning, in my view, partition.

[Hadaya] Do you think that this position will affect the Lebanese Front's support for you?

[Sham'un] They have announced (in the Front) that my program is the closest to theirs.

[Hadaya] You said in your statement that you have excellent relations with the Arab states. How do you explain that?

[Sham'un] I believe in an Arab economic community, similar to the EEC. Some people talk about excellent relations between us and Syria. The reality of the matter is that present relations are excellent. There is a relations bureau, but I hope there will be an embassy, which will facilitate work between the two countries. There is more than that here, especially concerning the pursuit of criminals. For example, the Lebanese police can pursue a criminal in Syria in accordance with a Lebanese extradition order, and vice versa. No such agreement exists between Lebanon and the other Arab states. I hope for such an agreement to cover all the Arab states.

[Hadaya] In your opinion, are these the excellent relations with Syria?

[Sham'un] Do you want any more than that? We are ready to establish any relations within the framework of sovereignty and independence.

[Hadaya] What is your opinion concerning Minister Walid Junblatt's nomination of Antoine al-Ashqar as a candidate on behalf of the Progressive Socialist Party, especially since you were counting on Junblatt's support through the special relationship between you?

[Sham'un] Friendship ties exist between Junblatt and me. I said that it is natural for Junblatt not to support Dany Sham'un's nomination, because I am pursuing a liberal line, while he is pursuing a socialist line. Consequently, he has the right. The rules of the democratic game allow for the individual to nominate whom he sees fit. It is my belief that Al-Ashqar's nomination clearly indicates that the elections will take place, and it also means that Junblatt is still proceeding from the 1943 Charter and does not agree to the idea of abolishing political sectarianism.

[Hadaya] Raymond Iddih expressed his desire, if elected president, to resort to the Syrian Army in the regions where it is stationed for a while, until such time as the Lebanese Army is rebuilt. What is your comment on that?

[Sham'un] We have mentioned the need for the gradual withdrawal of the Syrian Army in line with the expansion of the Lebanese Army or, to be more accurate, the security institutions in Lebanon. There is a need for that to occur.

[Hadaya] How do you see a settlement of the matter of the Israeli occupation in the south, especially in light of what is being said to the effect that you are the best

person to settle this matter by virtue of your special relationship with the "South Lebanon Army"? Do think that this problem can be settled before the presidential elections?

[Sham'un] This problem cannot be solved without a ministry. The matter needs an earnest approach. It cannot be settled by a disjointed government governing its disrupted relations. When there is a serious government and a serious authority, the Lebanese Army can be sent to the south, in cooperation with the UN forces—then the "South Lebanon Army" can be settled and a return made to stability in the south.

With regard to the situation on the borders with Israel, I can only see the implementation of the 1949 truce and the dispatch of two major generals from the Lebanese Army in order to maintain security in the region. At the level of the UN forces, we are trying to move in the direction of a modification in some of its duties, so that it can become an effective security force.

[Hadaya] How would you describe your relations with all the sides in the Lebanese arena?

[Sham'un] Good. I am not in favor of personal feuds; I reject them, in fact. Personal feuds are natural. But the common denominators exist, with respect to coexistence and reform. In my election statement, there is a complete distancing from that loathsome sectarianism.

Karim Paqraduni on Elections, Ja'ja' Role
NC151433 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Lawyer Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, has said that the Lebanese Forces have become, under the leadership of Dr Samir Ja'ja' and for the first time in the history of resistance, a fully integrated institution with information, security, military, foreign, and financial dimensions. He said: The Lebanese Forces have become complete under Samir Ja'ja' and are a large institution. He is our leader because he respects the Forces, respects their laws, and is fulfilling their ambitions and plans.

In an interview with AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI magazine, Paqraduni said that the Lebanese Forces have enough power to defend their independent decisionmaking. He added: We told the U.S. ambassador a few days ago that we have brought down the tripartite agreement reached under Syrian auspices, and we are ready to bring down any other tripartite agreement reached under U.S. auspices. The ambassador told us that his country is not acting to achieve a tripartite agreement which has already been brought down but is looking for an agreement that will resolve, not complicate, the crisis.

Paqraduni said that continuing occupation by foreign armies means partition, that intra-Lebanese negotiations must be held on Lebanese soil, and that no one party can achieve victory over other parties, because we are at the threshold of an international balance of power reflected in the region and Lebanon. Paqraduni ruled out any successful military operation against the eastern areas because the Lebanese Forces are well-prepared for any such attempt. He said: We call for preserving every inch of the homeland, and we consider Lebanon not only Jubayl and Juniyah but also B'alabakk and Tyre. We are fanatics about Lebanon and extremists in our Lebanese affiliation, but we are also unionists. A decentralized system is the only way to reunite Lebanon.

Paqraduni said that the chances for the success of Shultz' Lebanon initiative are minimal, as they are for his initiative for the region. Everyone knows that the Shultz initiative is doomed to failure, but no one wants to declare its failure. He added: Three-quarters of the Lebanese crisis is foreign and caused by foreign occupations. The Lebanese Forces, the Lebanese Front, and many Lebanese—both Christians and Muslims—believe that discussing political reforms in isolation from the withdrawal [of foreign armies] is only a partial solution and cannot be implemented. The Lebanese Forces are willing to have the system reformed provided this includes withdrawals from the homeland. We reject Syria replacing the Lebanese Muslims and the United States replacing the Lebanese Christians. Lebanon is not open to everybody; it is not a lackey, nor is it a garbage dump. All those who entered Lebanon have brought it to a quagmire, and those who have tried to swallow it have been unable to digest it. The so-called Syrian-U.S. plan for Lebanon has failed before it began. He said that there can be no U.S. solution for Lebanon or the region without the Soviet Union's approval.

Raduni reiterated the Lebanese Forces' adherence to independent Christian decisionmaking, and noted that the Lebanese Forces believe that the truce defines Lebanese-Israeli relations.

Paqraduni then touched on the issue of the presidential elections. He said: In 1976 there were several candidates, but only one candidate, Ilyas Sarkis, led the pack. The same situation prevailed in 1982, with Bashir al-Jumayyil being the principal candidate. There are now several dark-horse candidates. No one wants a president of the Republic who is rejected by the Lebanese Forces, because this would be tantamount to a declaration of civil war. No one can be a serious candidate if we reject him. We prefer not have a Lebanese Forces' candidate subject to the conditions of others but to have a non-Lebanese Forces candidate subject to the Forces' conditions. Dr Ja'ja' will nominate himself when we decide to have a Lebanese Forces candidate subject to the Forces' conditions—that is, when the time comes to restore peace, independence, and freedom.

Paqraduni added: In view of the Syrian-U.S. ffailure, agreement might be reached at the 11th hour on a gperson in whom all interests converge in order to administter the crisis. The solution might mature during the next 6 years. He said: The first step is to have a president, while Dr Ja'ja' will be the strongman in the coming stage.

The deputy Lebanese Forces commander stressed that Israel will not accept the election of a presidentt who wants to have distinctive relations with Syria. Im that case it would cause confusion and create instabillity in the south and Al-Biqa' in order to embarass this president and prevent him from establishing these relattions.

Paqraduni referred to the mechanism for reconciliiation which the Lebanese Forces have proposed. This mechanism consists of four stages:

1. Indirect negotiations at the level of the legitiimate Lebanese authority;

2. A subsequent national conference which would include ali the forces on the ground and the legitiimate authority and would reach an understanding;

3. The formation of a government that would be a translation of this understanding and which would ensure calm elections; and

4. Referral of proposals agreed on to the Chambeer of Deputies for ratification.

Ja'ja': Solution Must Come From Within

NC131623 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Dr Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebatnese Forces, has asserted that today, more than ever,, the Forces are determined to carry on the march to buildl the true Lebanese state and to make resistance to occupattion the legitimate weapon after liberation. He said the iissue of the Lebanese presidency is undoubtedly importtant, but it is not the most important issue. More importamt to us is liberation, he said. Therefore, Ja'ja' declared,, we reject any president who supports occupation and accept any president who endorses independence.

At celebrations held todiy marking the graduation of a new group of Lebanese Forces offices, Ja'ja' said: To those who expect good results from papers flying over our heads, carried in the portfolios of diplomats, we ssay: The negotiating table will be in Lebanon, and the scolution can only be in the Lebanese language.

The Lebanese Forces commander stressed that all scolutions coming from beyond our borders will fail to crross contact lines. He said: As we have fought and are sstill fighting everything which comes from abroad, we will resist anyone who even thinks of offering Lebanon to Syria on a silver platter. Dr Ja'ja' asked: What reform can be achieved under the occupation, in a powerless homeland? What abolishment of political sectarianism are they seeking when they are trying to abolish Lebanon itself?

Dr Ja'ja' called for liberating society from misconceptions before liberating the soil, pointing out that all other options have failed, that the only choice is resistance or occupation. He said: They wanted 13 April 1975 to mark the beginning of Lebanon's end, and we want 13 April 1988 to mark the end of occupation. Ja'ja' concluded: The Lebanese resistance has an appointment with a future 13 April, when all occupation troops will have departed and a new Lebanon will have been built. [passage omitted]

Various Syrian Positions in Tripoli Attacked

Attack in Abu Samrah 15 Apr

NC160902 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] An organization calling itself the Lebanese Liberation Organization [Munazzamat al-Tahrir al-Lubnaniyah] has claimed that it launched an attack with light machineguns and RPG's against a Syrian post in Abu Samrah area in Tripoli at 2000 last night, killing four Syrians and wounding two others.

Al-Tall Attack 16 Apr

NC171207 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has declared that one of its groups fired two rockets at a Syrian Army position in the old government building in the Al-Tall area of Tripoli last night.

2 Killed 18 April

NC182112 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] A person claiming to speak on behalf of the Lebanese Liberation Front telephoned Radio Free Lebanon a short while ago to state that the Front had attacked a Syrian position on Abu Samra Street in Tripoli tonight with hand grenades and machineguns, killing two Syrians and wounding others.

Amal, Hizballah Plan New Moves Following Clashes

NC141423 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Informed sources have provided the Voice of Lebanon with information regarding the forthcoming stage in light of the consequences of the recent Amal-Hizballah clashes in the south. According to this information, Hizballah will undertake a new move at the political, military, and security levels in order to counter the achievements Amal has made at its expense in the south. This new move calls for a temporary retreat from

the south and a reassembly of its military forces, with Iranian backing, in Ba'labakk, Al-Hirmil, central and western Al-Biqa', and the southern suburb.

The measures include the formation of secret cells to carry out specific military operations under cultural and religious cover. This is based on the assumption that Amal will not be able to carry out a military action similar to what happened in the south, Al-Biqa', and the southern suburb because the Syrians are not willing to break their links with Iran at a time when the clashes in the south have led to a deterioration of relations between Damascus and Tehran. The same sources add that the recent clashes in the south will not bring a realization of Syrian hopes regarding the release of the hostages and the Syrians' goal to appear as a prominent party in the Lebanese and regional arenas.

As regards Amal, that organization believes that it had achieved its goals during the clashes that took place in the south. It also is confident that situation in the southern suburb, Al-Hirmil, Al-Biqa', and Ba'labakk has been decided in its favor in light of the Syrian presence in these areas as well as in the south. After laying its hand on the Hizballah-controlled areas and institutions, the Amal Movement also is taking into account all possible reactions by Hizballah.

Group Criticizes Amal Leadership, 'Dirty War'

NC151608 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] A statement signed by the Sons of the Amal Movement [Abna' Amal] has been distributed in West Beirut and the southern suburbs. The statement criticizes the Amal Movement leadership and accuses it of involving Amal in undeclared wars under many slogans. It asks: What have the slogans of security in West Beirut, the alliance baptized in blood, and the security of the [Palestinian] camps accomplished? Where is the security for the resistance, when the south road is still subject to attacks and closures against the resistance fighters? The statement added: Everyone knows who has stood up to open this road in Maghdushah and elsewhere.

The statement referred to the clashes in the south between Nabih Birri's Amal and Hizballah. It said: The dirty war will remain a mark of disgrace in the history of Shi'ism; God will be angry with it and all faithfull generations will avenge it.

Resistance Fighters Attack Lahd Patrol in Yarin

NC181207 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] National resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge while an agent Lahd patrol was passing in Yarin today. The explosion damaged an M-113 armored personnel carrier, injuring its crew members.

1 Killed in Fighting Along Southern Suburb Line

NC181944 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Sniper fire directed at the Mazda area this evening left Sharbil Abu 'Azar dead and Jean Butrus Abu Gharib and Fadi Hanna Rumanus wounded. The sniper fire developed into clashes involving the use of automatic weapons and rockets. These clashes extended along the line from Galerie Sim'an to Mar Mikha'il Church. At 1820 heavy shellfire was directed at forward positions, accompanied by random shelling of Furn al-Shubbak and 'Ayn al-Rummanah, where a house was hit and set on fire. Three people suffered burns of varying degrees.

Fadlallah Expects 'Lightning Israeli Operation'

NC182102 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said he expects a lightning Israeli operation aimed at confusing the situation and creating a new arrangement in the region. He accused the big powers and the United States of dominating Arab policies. He also ruled out any basic solution in Lebanon, saying that Lebanon will remain as certain people want it. These people will prevent its partition, collapse, or reawakening.

Palestinian Camps on 'Maximum Alert' in South

NC191238 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] According to information received from the south, a state of maximum alert has been declared in the Palestinian camps, particularly in Tyre and Sidon. Anti-aircraft units also have been alerted.

Meanwhile, armed Palestinian personnel have been equipped with antiaircraft SAM-7's, which were sighted on the ridges of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah. The Palestinian measures come in the wake of intensive Israeli flights last night over the area, during which flares were fired over the camps. Israeli gunboats have been spotted cruising the coasts between Tyre and Al-Zahrani.

Al-Zu'bi Receives GDR Deputy Trade Minister

JN151249 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] At 1200 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received GDR's Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Klaus-Dieter Gaedt and his delegation. Present at the meeting were Hamid Mar'i, assistant state minister for planning; the GDR charge d'affaires in Damascus; and the GDR cultural attache in Damascus.

At the outset of the meeting, the prime minister received a letter from Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, on prospects for increased economic cooperation between the friendly countries. During the meeting, the two discussed ways to boost scientific, technical, economic, and commercial ties between Syria and the GDR.

Prime Minister Receives USSR Official

JN161551 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1448 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus, 16 Apr (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received here today Comrade Ivanov, collegium member of the USSR Ministry of Land and Water Reclamation, who cochairs a joint Syrian-USSR subcommittee for irrigation. Minister of Irrigation 'Abd al-Rahman al-Madani was also present. They discussed land reclamation projects under construction in Syria in cooperation with the USSR and other bilateral issues.

Soviet Space Delegation Arrives on Visit

JN151336 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus—General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received at Damascus International Airport this morning a delegation of Soviet cosmonauts and their wives headed by General G.S. Titov, the official in charge of space at the Soviet Ministry of Defense [title as heard].

The visiting delegation was also welcomed upon arrival by General Hasan Turkumani, deputy chief of staff; the commander of the Air Force and Air Defense; a number of officers of the General Command and the Air Force; Syrian astronauts Muhammad Faris and Munir Habib; Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Aleksandr Dzasokhov; and embassy staff.

The Soviet delegation comprises the cosmonauts: General Aleksey Leonov; Colonel Yuriy Romanenko; Aleksandr Aleksandrov; Aleksandr Levykin; and Ivan (Tokarev), from the Space Flight Center and their wives. After a short respite, the visiting delegation headed for their place of residence in Damascus. The delegation's visit to Syria will last several days.

Talas Meets Space Delegation

JN161522 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1447 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus, 16 Apr (SANA)—General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received here today General G.S. Titov, the official in charge of space at the Soviet Ministry of Defense [title as received]. The meeting was attended by Syrian astronauts Muhammad Faris and Munir Habib.

During the meeting, the discussion covered space cooperation between the friendly countries Syria and the USSR and matters of shared interest.

Paper on Israel's 'Terrorist Methods,' Al-Wazir

JN170701 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Apr 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Perpetuation of the Palestinian Revolution" AL-BA'TH says: Over the past 130 days since its eruption, the tumultuous popular revolution in occupied Palestine has succeeded in entrenching certain facts along the course of the Arab-Zionist conflict. The most prominent of these facts is the determination of the masses in the occupied Arab territories to pursue their revolution—irrespective of the cost and sacrifices—until their objectives of liberation, regaining the usurped rights, and the establishment of an independent state are attained.

There is no longer any doubt that the Zionist entity is currently experiencing one of the most critical dilemmas in its short history in the region. In its feverish attempts to seek outlets and to confront the revolution, this entity is devising more sophisticated terrorist methods, such as the use of poisonous gas in the occupied territories and the intensification of its terrorist policies against the Palestinians, embodied in the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in Tunis, and the killing of more than 10 citizens in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday.

These methods will not produce better results than the previous methods, and the Palestinian people, who have been hardened by the revolution and baptized by the blood of the martyrs, have proved that they hold the reigns of their destiny and are capable of pursuing their revolution until all their objectives and aspirations are attained.

'Unchanging' Principles 'Cripple' U.S. Policy

JN141631 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] For more than 4 months, the world has been voicing its consternation and indignation against the savage Israeli practices and violations in the occupied

Arab territories. Meanwhile, the U.S. Administration has been ecouraging and supporting these serious violations of international agreements openly as well as by implication. The United States does not care to issue an official declaration and join voices with world public opinion against the grotesque Israeli crimes. Whenever tactical reasons compel the U.S. Administration to direct criticism at Israel, it chooses phrases that do not harm Israel or invite Israel's displeasure. The most strongly worded phrases that U.S. officials have uttered on Israel's savage crimes in the occupied territory were confined to words of regret.

The rights of the Arab human being and the UN resolutions have no place in U.S. Middle East policy. What is allowed in Washington's policy is the following:

1. Continuing the influx of financial, military, economic, and diplomatic support for the Zionist entity.

2. Weakening all Arab efforts or actions for solidarity and cooperation, and opposing the promotion of Arab capabilities against Zionism and its expansionist project.

3. Covering Israel's crimes in the international arena in the political, military, and propaganda fields.

4. Moving quickly when necessary to save Israel in a difficult situation.

These unchanging principles in Washington's foreign policy completely cripple the U.S. Administration in the Middle East, prevent it from undertaking constructive and peaceful action in the Arab region, and make it captive to Israel's aggressive Zionist ideas and ambitions. This forces the the successive U.S. administrations to remain in a state of permanent strategic alliance with the Zionist military establishment, makes the American UN representative a delegate for Tel Aviv and his own country simultaneously, and compels the U.S. tax payer to pay illegally and continuously for killers, terrorists, and expansionist aggressors.

When the United States thinks of formulating a new move in the region, it takes into consideration the Zionist enemy's interests and how to extricate it from trouble first and foremost. It does not take note of warnings against the dire consequences of this policy which is hostile to the Arabs and to the cause of peace in the Middle East. By pursuing such a policy, the U.S. Administration raises the level of tension and the possibility of an explosion in the region, and buries certain facts that are bound to appear one day—facts that will cause many explosions such as the current explosion in the occupied territory and the explosion that occurred in the October [1973] war of liberation. The current events in the occupied territories are stark and definite proof that the occupation and attempts to impose suspect solutions have no chance of success.

Certain international circles might have recognized Israel as a colonialist reality, the result of a historic mistake by the West. However, the grave historic mistake is not a permanent state. It is bound to collapse and fall. The mistake is bound to end. Likewise, aggression, expansion, and occupation is not a permanent state. It is bound to end regardless of the Zionist enemy's terrorism and annihilation operations, and irrespective of the support and protection it receives from the United States.

Paper on Need for 'Solidarity' Against U.S.

JN150628 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Apr 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Security Council and the Zionist Crimes," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Once again, the UN Security Council discusses the Zionist crimes. The United States newly warns the entire world and threatens to use the veto to foil any resolution condemning the killings, the terrorist actions, and the demolition of houses which the Zionists publicly practice against Arabs in the occupied homeland.

AL-BA'TH adds: The United States, which joins the Zionists in marking the anniversary of condemning Nazi massacres, refuses to regard the Israeli crimes against Arabs as violations of human rights. Yesterday, the Zionists demolished 26 Arab houses, killed Arabs, and arrested hundreds after a Zionist girl was shot to death by a Zionist soldier. This harm done to Arabs has not evoked any human feelings in the U.S. officials. Every day, the Zionist Army command admits wounding and killing scores of Arab Palestinians. Meanwhile, the U.S. White House maintains that the Israeli crimes are cases of self- defense.

AL-BA'TH continues: The Arab complaint to the UN Security Council remains ineffective unless it is coupled with a genuine solidarity against the United States. By doing so, the United States may feel that the use of veto to champion the Zionist aggression will neither be in its interest nor in the interest of its people.

Afghanistan

Wakil Explains Details of Geneva Agreements

LD182315 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Dear listeners of Radio Afghanistan:

As you heard in today's news bulletin, the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan, led by Esteemed 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister and member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, which went to Geneva to take part in the talks on the political solution surrounding Afghanistan, returned home today after the conclusion of the talks and the signing of agreements with the Pakistani delegation. The State Committee for Radio, Television and Cinematography today requested the esteemed Afghan foreign minister to explain the documents and agreements signed in Geneva concerning the situation surrounding Afghanistan. The Afghan foreign minister agreed to our request. We hereby draw your attention to the following:

[Begin Wakil recording] Dear compatriots, we returned from Geneva with the documents signed on the political solution to the situation surrounding Afghanistan. In this regard I would like to say that the time for your righteous waiting for peace has ended. I will not say that guns will be laid down overnight as a result of what we signed in Geneva. However, we have brought a message for the start of a historic opportunity which gives hope to warm hearts, aware minds, and persecuted families.

The road to peace was difficult and long because to reach the peace accords in Geneva was not within the bounds of one side's will. The parties concerned have had a [word indistinct] role, with various degrees of interest, in the destiny of this war-weary nation. Also, we were not dealing with only one side at the talks because not only one side was facing us in the undeclared war. The search for points of agreement, which had to be obtained from among all the opposition's opinions and contradictory positions, made it difficult to reach an agreement.

The history of the talks, following the two proposals Afghanistan submitted in 1980 and 1981, and the declaration of readiness to seek a solution to the problem through diplomatic channels, began in 1982 with the efforts of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and through his personal envoy, Mr Cordovez. Since then the talks have constantly faced great obstacles. In addition to the format of the talks, the initial step was to produce a blueprint for a comprehensive framework which would allow the concerned parties to arrive at a solution from wide-ranging differences and demands. The parties' interests were contradictory and their positions conflicted. A deep gulf of differences had to be bridged, and the cold attitude and political [word indistinct] prevailing in the international atmosphere left very little opportunity for the degree of necessary trust in diplomatic confidence in all areas, in particular in regional disputes.

Even after August 1984, when as a result of Mr Cordovez' visits to the capitals of the two countries, Afghanistan and Paksitan, the process changed to the proximity talks in Geneva because the opposite side evaded direct talks, negotiations proceeded sluggishly. The opposite side, which did not intend to reach an accord, took the question of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan as the central point and the fateful factor. They believed the limited Soviet contingents would never leave Afghanistan. This position and the stress on it brought the Geneva talks to a hopeless stalemate at the end of 1986. This diplomatic (?stalemate) was saved due to the flexibility and principled joint concessions the Afghan and Soviet sides displayed from time to time.

Meanwhile, the scope of foreign countries' interference and their role in the Afghan war increased to a frightening extent. The anti-Afghan planners with their complex war and propaganda strategy dangerously fanned the flames of war by intervening in the main centers and transformed this war into one of the most dreadful regional conflagrations and the most sorrowful tragedy in the world. The bloodshed in our homeland reached intolerable proportions. The pain of the blade of war reached the bone of our persecuted nation. There was no way out except reconciliation.

With the announcement of national reconciliation in the spring of 1987 our compatriots' need for peace was given top priority. The hearts and minds of those who were in mourning and the camp-dwellers on the fringes of the homeland welcomed this. Other peoples of the world watching the war raised their voices against it. National reconciliation invigorated the peace process in Geneva.

For the first time a definite mechanism was created to solve internal Afghan affairs separate from the external aspects. It was made clear to the parties concerned what should be solved through the Geneva process. The talks emerged from ambiguity and aimed at their purpose which was to end the external incitement of war inside the country.

With the [word indistinct] compromise and sincere intentions of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, the [words indistinct] of war. However, this did not mean that the last few miles would be an easy ride. After being satisfied that the Soviet Union's intention to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan was serious and genuine, the United States and Pakistan began to change their negotiating tactics. The Americans, who had previously agreed with the draft documents on guarantees, provided the timetable for the withdrawal was (?announced), abandoned this position and adhered to a meaningless demand that the Soviets cease all military assistance to Afghanistan.

Pakistan also changed its position on the issue of an internal government and insisted that the phrase, the existing recognized international border, also be included in the first document. This was contrary to the

understanding that new issues and issues not included in the agenda would not be raised. Serious obstacles capable of creating rifts suddenly mushroomed when only a few steps were left to finalize the agreement. But fortunately, as a result of the joint communique by Esteemed Najibullah and M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and their trust in it, and because of the healthy and principled stance of the Afghan delegation, the last obstacles were also removed and the documents were signed without mentioning existing recognized international borders.

The talks were conducted in such a way that they had to be fought trench by trench at all stages, from vital issues to the smallest subjects, from the fateful issues to the formation at the table and the procedure of the signing ceremonies. The opposite side had a rigid and stubborn stance. The deal was to be conducted in an atmosphere of total reciprocal mistrust. The signed documents, which will be published tomorrow by the mass media, are on the whole a political settlement which aims at stopping the interference in our internal affairs and guaranteeing its nonresumption.

Both signatories, Afghanistan and Pakistan, have granted solid undertakings regarding sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, security, the right to have a desired political system; refraining from the use of force or the threat to use it; restraint from direct or indirect interference and overt and covert economic or political sabotage or any other act of destalization; restraint from organizing, training, financing, arming and granting refuge to the subversive groups or basing them in military camps and bases and their territory.

And they have undertaken not to enter into any arrangement with another foreign country for the above-mentioned purposes, and will not allow actions of another state for these aims on their territories.

The signed agreement include clear guarantees from the two great world powers, the Soviet Union and the United States, about noninterference and other countries are also requested to respect this principle.

The signed documents contain specific arrangements for the regular and voluntary return of refugees and ending the misery and homelessness of a section of our loved ones, who live on alien soil and subsist on rations.

The signed documents include a specific control mechanism to supervise the enforcement of the agreements' provisions by United Nations personnel and to give consideration to complaints about violations, which we hope will not occur. A United Nations team of 20 members will be stationed in Kabul and Islamabad.

The signed documents include the withdrawal and return of the limited Soviet units. Contrary to what our enemies propagated—that the Soviet forces occupied Afghanistan and trampled on people's freedom and religious values—this was not the case and the limited Soviet units, after accomplishing their proud internationalist duties, are returning to their peace-loving country under an agreement in which the cessation of interference has been undertaken and its nonresumption is guaranteed. Afghanistan was independent and nonaligned and continues to be so and it will continue its friendship with this northern neighbor in the future, as it has in past years.

Dear compatriots, we do not claim the documents we have signed will not be rejected by anyone. There is no agreement in the world that is accepted equally by the enemies and friends of peace. For us, the important thing was to fulfill the rights we owed you, as your representatives at Geneva. We return with peaceful hearts, because there is no word, no letter in any line or title in the documents which is against the best interests of the country or damages the territorial integrity of the nation and Afghan pride. It is important to us that the agreements are endorsed by all Afghan people including homeless people residing in camps, all the world's peace-loving countries, international public opinion, Islamic countries, and member countries of the Nonaligned Movement.

The rejection of these agreements by reactionary circles and the heads of the seven-party alliance proves that basically they do not want peace. They do not want the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan. They do not want an end to your misery and sorrow and pains, noble people.

Similarly, it is incumbent on us to recall with gratitude the role of the United Nations secretary general and his personal envoy in the successful accomplishment of the Geneva talks and for their presence in the signing ceremonies, which raised the legal authority and the binding power of the documents as an important covenant. We signed these documents with great faith and with the intent to implement them. We will truthfully discharge our undertakings and we want Pakistan and the United Stated to fulfill their obligations. Otherwise, signing the agreements will be one thing and enforcing it will be something else.

The signing of these agreements has brought the hope that we can resume good-neighborly relations with Pakistan. We want Pakistan to help alleviate all the causes of regional conflicts through implementing these agreements.

We also want Iran to join the agreement, as it promised.

These agreements can be counted on as the inception of a new chapter in the relations of the Afghan people with their close neighbors, with whom they have lived for many years in brotherhood and intimacy. We hope they will not sacrifice this great opportunity for short-sighted whims.

Now that the stage of agreeing on principles has ended, we are similarly hopeful that the agreements will accelerate the task of national reconciliation and the formation of a coalition government inside the country. We manifested flexibility and patience in the Geneva talks process and we will act similarly in the process of national accord and the formation of a coalition government. And we want all our opponents, especially their commanders inside the country, to courageously join this process. There is no reason to continue war and slaughter after the signing of the Geneva agreements, in particular because the door of reconciliation is open and we are ready to divide power and form a coalition government.

We are grateful for the success of the Geneva agreements and for your patience, heroic nation, and for the powerful instructions of Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, which we enjoyed at fateful moments. I congratulate all of you for this victory. [end recording]

Agreement Signed With Pakistan on Nonintervention
LD141629 Moscow TASS in English 1547 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Geneva April 14 TASS—Follows the full text of the bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the principles of mutual relations, in particular on non-interference and non-intervention:

The Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, hereinafter referred to as the high contracting parties,

Desiring to normalize relations and promote good-neighbourliness and co-operation as well as to strengthen international peace and security in the region,

Considering that full observance of the principle of non-interference and non-intervention in the internal and external affairs of states is of the greatest importance for the maintenance of international peace and security and for the fulfillment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of states freely to determine their own political, economic, cultural and social systems in accordance with the will of their peoples, without outside intervention, interference, subversion, coercion or threat in any form whatsoever,

Mindful of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the resolutions adopted by the United Nations on the principle of non-interference and non-intervention, in particular the declaration on principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among states in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, of 24 October 1970, as well as the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States, of 9 December 1981,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

Relations between the high contracting parties shall be conducted in strict compliance with the principle of non-interference and non-intervention by states in the affairs of other states.

Article II

For the purpose of implementing the principle of non-interference and non-intervention each high contracting party undertakes to comply with the following obligations:

(1) to respect the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, national unity, security and non-alignment of the other high contracting party, as well as the national identity and cultural heritage of its people;

(2) To respect the sovereign and inalienable rights of the other high contracting party freely to determine its own political, economic, cultural and social systems, to develop its international relations and to exercise permanent sovereignty over its natural resources, in accordance with the will of its people, and without outside intervention, interference, subversion, coercion or threat in any form whatsoever;

(3) To refrain from the threat or use of force in any form whatsoever so as not to violate the boundaries of each other, to disrupt the political, social or economic order of the other high contracting party, to overthrow or change the political system of the other high contracting party or its government, or to cause tension between the high contracting parties;

(4) To ensure that its territory is not used in any manner which would violate the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and national unity or disrupt the political, economic and social stability of the other high contracting party;

(5) To refrain from armed intervention, subversion, military occupation or any other form of intervention and interference, overt or covert, directed at the other high contracting party, or any act of military, political or economic interference in the internal affairs of the other high contracting party, including acts of reprisals involving the use of force;

(6) To refrain from any action or attempt in whatever form or under whatever pretext to destabilize or to undermine the stability of the other high contracting party or any of its institutions;

(7) To refrain from the promotion, encouragement or support, direct or indirect, of rebellious or secessionist activities against the other high contracting party, under any pretext whatsoever, or from any other action which seeks to disrupt the unity or to undermine or subvert the political order of the other high contracting party;

(8) To prevent within its territory the training, equipping, financing and recruitment of mercenaries from whatever origin for the purpose of hostile activities against the other high contracting party, or the sending of such mercenaries into the territory of the other high contracting party and accordingly to deny facilities, including financing for the training, equipping and transit of such mercenaries;

(9) To refrain from making any agreements or arrangements with other states designed to intervene or interfere in the internal and external affairs of the other high contracting party;

(10) To abstain from any defamatory campaign, vilification or hostile propaganda for the purpose of intervening or interfering in the affairs of the other high contracting party;

(11) To prevent any assistance to or use of or tolerance of terrorist groups, saboteurs or subversive agents against the other high contracting party;

(12) To prevent within its territory the presence, harbouring, in camps and bases or otherwise, organizing, training, financing, equipping and arming of individuals and political, ethnic and any other groups for the purpose of creating subversion, disorder or unrest in the territory of the other high contracting party and accordingly also to prevent the use of mass media and the transportation of arms, ammunition and equipment by such individuals and groups.

(13) Not to resort to or to allow any other action that could be considered as interference or intervention.

Article III

The present agreement shall enter into force on 15 May 1988.

Article IV

Any steps that may be required in order to enable the high contracting parties to comply with the provisions of Article II of this agreement shall be completed by the date on which this agreement enters into force.

Article V

This agreement is drawn up in the English, Pashto and Urdu languages, all texts being equally authentic. In any case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Done in five original copies at Geneva this fourteenth day of April 1988.

(Signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan)

Agreement on Return of Refugees

LD141656 Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Geneva April 14 TASS—Follows the full text of the bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Paksitan on the voluntary return of refugees:

The Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, hereinafter referred to as the high contracting parties,

Desiring to normalize relations and promote good-neighbourliness and co-operation as well as to strengthen international peace and security in the region,

Convinced that voluntary and unimpeded repatriation constitutes the most appropriate solution for the problem of Afghan refugees present in the Islamic Republic of Paksitan and having ascertained that the arrangements for the return of the Afghan refugees are satisfactory to them,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

All Afghan refugees temporarily present in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan shall be given the opportunity to return voluntarily to their homeland in accordance with the arrangements and conditions set out in the present agreement.

Article II

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan shall take all necessary measures to ensure the following conditions for the voluntary return of Afghan rewfugees to their homeland:

(a) All refugees shall be allowed to return in freedom to their homeland;

(b) All returnees shall enjoy the free choice of domicile and freedom of movement within the Republic of Afghanistan;

(c) All returnees shall enjoy the right to work, to adequate living conditions and to share in the welfare of the state;

(d) All returnees shall enjoy the right to participate on an equal basis in the civic affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. They shall be ensured equal benefits from the solution of the land question on the basis of the land and water reform;

(e) All returnees shall enjoy the same rights and privileges, including freedom of religion, and have the same obligations and responsibilities as any other citizen of the Republic of Afghanistan without discrimination .

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan undertakes to implement these measures and to provide, within its possibilities, all necessary assistance in the process of repatriation.

Article III

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan shall facilitate the voluntary, orderly and peaceful repatriation of all Afghan refugees staying within its territory and undertakes to provide, within its possibilities, all necessary assistance in the process of repatriation.

Article IV

For the purpose of organising, coordinating and supervising the operations which should effect the voluntary, orderly and peaceful repatriation of Afghan refugees, there shall be set up mixed commissions in accordance with the established international practice. For the performance of their functions the members of the commissions and their staff shall be accorded the necessary facilities, and have access to the relevant areas within the territories of the high contracting parties.

Article V

With a view to the orderly movement of the returnees, the commissions shall determine frontier crossing points and establish necessary transit centres. They shall also establish all other modalities for the phased return of refugees, including registration and coomunication to the country of return of the names of refugees who express the wish to return.

Article VI

At the request of the governments concerned, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will cooperate and provide assistance in the process of voluntary repatriation of refugees in accordance with the present agreement. Special agreements may be concluded for this purpose between UNHCR and the high contracting parties.

Article VII

The present agreement shall enter into force on 15 May 1988. At that time the mixed commissions provided in Article IV shall be established and the operations for the voluntary return of refugees under this agreement shall commence.

The arrangements set out in Articles IV and V above shall remain in effect for a period of eighteen months. After that period the high contracting parties shall review the results of the repatriation and, if necessary, consider any further arrangements that may be called for.

Article VIII

This agreement is drawn up in the English, Pashto, and Urdu languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Done in five original copies at Geneva this fourteenth day of April 1988.

(Signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan)

Mujahidin Leader Sayyaf Rejects Geneva Accords

JN181501 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
16 Apr 88 p 1

[By Muhammad Salih]

[Text] Islamabad—Shaykh Ghulam 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, amir of the Afghan mujahidin, president of the Islamic Unity Movement of mujahidin in Afghanistan, has announced that the seven key parties of the mujahidin will today told a major meeting to respond to the Geneva agreement. In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, he said the seven-party leaders will make an announcement on pursuing the jihad until Afghanistan is liberated from the current ruling regime. He said the union of the seven parties of the mujahidin formed under the name of the Islamic alliance of Afghan holy warriors categorically rejects the document signed in Geneva. The mujahdin will carry on the jihad even if the Pakistan-Afghanistan border is closed, he added.

In another statement to AL-ITTIHAD, Eng Ahmad Shah, the prime minister of the provisional government, supported the statements of Shaykh Sayyaf. In the next few days, he added, we will announce the names of the 2 vice prime ministers and 14 ministers of the cabinet which will take over immediately after the communist rule is demolished. AL-ITTIHAD has learned from mujahidin sources that training centers hitherto based in Pakistan have been moved to liberated Afghan territory to pursue the fight from there.

Meanwhile, Afghan resistance sources have said that the Afghan mujahidin killed 11 Afghan Government personnel during attacks launched yesterday to dramatize their opposition to the peace agreement that was signed in Geneva the day before yesterday.

Seven-Party Alliance Vows To Continue Fighting

BK161718 Hong Kong AFP in English 1713 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 16 (AFP)—Afghan resistance alliance leaders vowed at a rally near here Saturday to keep fighting until they defeat the Soviet-backed Kabul government, organizers said. One after another, the rebel leaders vowed to pursue the "holy war" until victory, the crowd frequently interrupting with cries of "Allah-o-akbar" (God is great).

They condemned the Afghan peace agreement signed in Geneva Thursday on the grounds they were not consulted about it and the Marxist Afghan Government of President Najibullah, one of the negotiating parties, had no legitimacy. The agreement, signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan and guaranteed by the Soviet Union and the United States, calls for the withdrawal of the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan and the return of three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Turnout was lower than expected. The organisers said Wednesday [13 April] they expected as many as one million people, but only 200,000 showed up. "I ask you, do not fight among yourselves, unite," said Rasul Sayyar, leader of the Etehad-e Eslami party, a radical fundamentalist pro-Saudi group.

"Don't start any projects, don't buy afghanis, the war is not over," said Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of the moderate Jamiyat-e Eslami, referring to the Afghan currency that has risen 20 per cent in value in five days.

All the leaders of the seven-party alliance attended except Mir Sayyed Gaylani, chief of the National Islamic Front, who sent a deputy. Only men and boys were at the three-hour rally. They arrived chanting slogans such as "Death to the Geneva agreement and those who signed it" and "Punishment for the Russians and the Americans."

The leaders sat under a large canopy, protected by a double row of body guards, before a crowd standing and sitting under the blazing sun in a vast enclosure close to the city. Alliance chief Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the radical fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami party, closed the meeting saying the rally had agreed to two resolutions: that the refugees will not return to Afghanistan until an Islamic government is installed there and that the mujahidin would not put down their arms.

PDPA Condolences to 'Arafat on Al-Wazir Death

LD190859 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 18, BAKHTAR—The Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan sent a message of condolence to Yasir 'Arafat leader of Palestine Liberation Organisation, PLO, on the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) a prominent Palestinian leader and deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the PLO.

Expressing deep sorrow on the occasion, the message has condemned severely the terrorist act of Zionism and imperialism hirelings and described the death of Abu Jihad a great loss in the freedom movement of the Palestinian people.

Najibullah, Keshtmand Attend Lenin Commemoration

LD171336 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 16, BAKHTAR—The one hundred eighteenth birthday anniversary of V.I. Lenin, the indefatigable militant of peace and leaders of workers of the world was marked here during a gallant function today.

Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA CC) and president of Afghanistan; Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister; 'Abdurrahim Hatif, chairman of the central council of National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan; some Politburo members and members of the secretariat of the PDPA CC; cadres and activists of workers revolutionary organisations; members of Revolutionary Council; cadres and activists of party and social organisations of Kabul Province; some members of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan; representatives of workers of Kabul Province, Fedosov, counsellor of Soviet Embassy in Kabul; and ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps of friendly countries in Kabul participated in the function.

During the function Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand on behalf of the democratic left parties, state, party and people of Afghanistan expressed his profound and cordial congratulations to the people, party and state of the Soviet Union.

Later, Daud Razmyar, secretary of the party committee of Kabul city, spoke on struggles and creative services of V.I. Lenin for the sake of humanity. In his speech he also pointed out to the gains of the Great October Revolution in the Soviet society and the role of the ideas and talents of V.I. Lenin for the growth of international progressive movements as well as on Afghan-Soviet friendship and assistance of the Soviet union for the progress and flourishing of Afghanistan.

Ghulam Sakhi Ghayrat, representative of Workers Revolutionary Organisation of Afghanistan, Hasina, a worker in Kabul Central Silo, Muhammad Sabir Tahir, a lecturer in the veterinary college in Kabul University, Ajmal, a soldier, and Amanullah, a farmer from Kabul spoke on the occasion and expressed their gratitude for the assistance of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan. At the end of the function, the artists of the Armenian SSR presented a concert which was warmly welcomed by the audience.

USSR, U.S. Scientists, Sociologists Arrive

LD190615 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 18, BAKHTAR—Delegations of social and scientific figures of the United States and the USSR arrived in Kabul today to participate in the tripartite conference of social and scientific personalities.

The social and scientific personalities of Afghanistan, the United States and the Soviet Union will shortly hold a tripartite conference on Afghanistan organised by the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation of Afghanistan, PSFO.

The heads of the delegations met with Academician Sulayman La'eq, president of the Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan.

Sulayman La'eq described the conference of the delegations of Afghanistan, the United States of America and the Soviet Union quite useful for the establishment of an understanding and good comprehension on Afghanistan. It is high time that the peace-loving masses in the West should realise the realities on Afghanistan and the humane policy of the young Republic of Afghanistan.

Presidential Office Announcement on Ramadan

LD181304 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Announcement by the Presidential Office of Afghanistan:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, Muslim and faithful brothers, the Presidential Office of Afghanistan congratulates the noble and God-worshipping Afghan nation and the world of Islam on the arrival of the auspicious month of Ramadan and wishes all Muslims of the homeland success in accomplishing this great duty to God.

The Presidential Office of Afghanistan, on the basis of all people's will in this country, once again categorically announces that the sacred religion of Islam is the sacred religion of the people of Afghanistan and the state considers respect for, observation of, and the protection of this chosen faith of almighty God to be one of its duties.

The Presidential Office of Afghanistan instructs all responsible organs not to allow any faithful individual under obligation—by not observing Ramadan and encouraging others to this action—to engage in disrespect for the religious beliefs of the faithful and God-worshipping people of Afghanistan.

All restaurants and hotels are closed during the day during the month of Ramadan. Those who act contrary to this announcement, should be brought under legal and judiciary pursuance. The republican state of Afghanistan, while welcoming this blessed month, hopes that the noble, courageous and faithful people of Afghanistan will complete the auspicious month of Ramadan in the light of national reconciliation with comfort in their hearts, observing the duty and obedience to and the principles of God's will and maintaining the well-being of the people, and will successfully pass this test of Almighty God. Success comes from God.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

India

Gandhi Comments on Pakistan, Geneva Pact

BK160318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The prime minister has said that in spite of a series of initiatives taken by India to improve relations, Pakistan's response is negative. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the two major irritants are Pakistan's support to terrorists in Punjab and its nuclear program.

In separate interviews in Tokyo yesterday with a Japanese daily and a TV network, the prime minister pointed out there is no peaceful use for enriched uranium produced by Pakistan. He said Islamabad is modifying certain aircraft to carry new devices. The prime minister told the questioners that fairly accurate information is available regarding the training camps for terrorists in Pakistan. Welcoming the Geneva accord on Afghanistan, the prime minister observed that a spirit of cooperation seems to be emerging in the present world.

Mr Gandhi reiterated the call for severe measures, including mandatory sanctions, against South Africa to end apartheid. He also stressed the need for creating a new international economic order.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi has since left Tokyo for Ho Chi Minh City on a day's visit to Vietnam. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Gandhi Visits Vietnam

For Hanoi and Delhi coverage on the visit of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the accompanying delegation to the SRV, see the Vietnam section of the 18 April East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent items.

Geneva Accords 'Political Success' for U.S.

BK151130 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Commentary by political analyst Rai Singh]

[Text] The four nation agreement on Afghanistan signed at Geneva on 14 April is an important achievement insofar as it has brought to fruition the long, drawn out proximity talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan with UN mediator Diego Cordovez serving as the go-between. It is a political success for the U.S. inasmuch as Washington has retained the right to supply arms to the Afghan rebel mujahidin on the principle of symmetry of Soviet arms supplies to the Najibullah regime in Afghanistan. In this sense it is a victory for the Afghan rebel mujahidin.

The Pakistan-based seven chiefs of the Afghan resistance alliance announced on 13 April their decision to reject the Geneva Accord and to continue with their armed resistance against the Najibullah regime in Afghanistan from their bases in Pakistan. This is despite the fact that Pakistan has promised to dismantle these training camps, which it had earlier denied repeatedly.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 14 April expressed his dissatisfaction with the continued arms supplies to the Afghan rebels not only because it would vitiate peace in Afghanistan, but also because of the fact that a large number of the arms supplies meant for the Afghan mujahidin are being diverted to the terrorists in India, especially in the Indian border state of Punjab.

According to the annual report of the Ministry of External Affairs released on 12 April, India remained deeply affected by the situation in Afghanistan. Taking note of a qualitative change in the Afghanistan situation, India had initiated contacts with various Afghan opposition elements and the countries involved in the Afghan situation in order to help contribute toward a political solution. India favors a nonaligned, independent, and stable Afghanistan and it is to this end that all its efforts are directed.

India has welcomed the Soviet decision to start withdrawing its troops from 15 May, and Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev has promised to complete the withdrawal within 9 months. But it appears the Geneva Accord may not bring immediate peace to Afghanistan. This is so because according to reports from Washington, Pakistan has entered into an understanding with the United States that it would continue to act as a conduit for U.S. military aid to Afghan insurgents even after signing the agreement in Geneva. But according to the terms of the agreement Pakistan has pledged noninterference in Afghanistan.

Newsmen asked Mr Shultz if he did not see the obvious contradiction in Pakistan's position. He evaded answering that question. He only kept emphasizing the historic role played by Pakistan by supporting the mujahidin. Both U.S. President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz made it clear that the United States would continue to send military supplies to Afghan rebels. Mr Reagan said: We take great pride in having assisted the Afghan people in this triumph and they can count on our continued support. With this background in mind, one wonders if the 3 million refugees in Pakistan would be able to return to Afghanistan.

In Kabul, President Najibullah has expressed his readiness to share power with the rebels and even form a coalition government only if the rebels lay down their arms. The rebels are not ready to oblige.

One may hope that the Geneva Accord on Afghanistan would help normalize the situation, but it will not bring peace to the 15 million Afghans who have already suffered some 1 million deaths in the past 9 years. It implies no more than a limited superpower disengagement from the internal conflict. It also contains loose ends which keep the way open for renewed outside involvement in Afghanistan and for increased tension in the region. Cordovez himself has termed the agreement imperfect. A senior U.S. official described the result as messier than we had hoped, but underscored its virtue in getting the Soviets out of Afghanistan.

The Geneva agreement on Afghanistan thus means different things to different parties, including the two superpower guarantors of the accord. The only hope for peace, stability, and independence, particularly from interference from outside in Afghanistan, lies in a better understanding between the superpowers during the summit meet in Moscow next month. In fact, the accord on Afghanistan has paved the way for the success of the summit meet in Moscow. Hence, it deserves to be welcomed.

Bangladesh Border Patrols To Intensify

BK160655 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to intensify patrolling along their border to check trans-border crimes like infiltrations, smuggling, and cattle lifting. The agreement came at the end of the 3-day conference of the Border Security Force and the Bangladesh Rifles at Rajshahi in Bangladesh.

New Roads, Barbed Wire Planned

BK181628 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Government has decided to construct about 2,000 km of new roads along the Indo-Bangladesh border to facilitate intensive patrolling by the BSF [Border Security Force]. Another 650 km of existing roads are to be improved. A barbed wire fence will be constructed at vulnerable sectors in Assam and Meghalaya.

Giving this information in the Lok Sabha today, the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, said the entire project is estimated to cost more than 370 crore rupees and is likely to be completed in 10 years. Intervening in the discussion on the budgetary demand for the Home Ministry, he said 10 crore rupees have been allocated this year for the project. The allocation for next year is about 27 crore rupees.

The minister said the Assam Government is responsible for the slow progress in executing the project in its area. The work has been entrusted to the state PWD [Public Works Department] at their own request.

Mr Chidambaram referred to the deployment of Army before the assembly elections in Tripura and said this move taken in public interest was vindicated by the large turnout of voters to exercise their franchise. [passage omitted]

Home Minister Voices Concern Over Border

BK181614 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has expressed serious concern over Pakistan providing immediate support and instigation to terrorism in Punjab. He said the government's endeavor to create a border of peace and friendship with Pakistan has been spurned by Islamabad. He was inaugurating the conference of the heads of central and state police forces and intelligence agencies in New Delhi today. Mr Buta Singh said the politics of violence and terrorist killing are aggressive efforts by certain quarters to break India's unity and disrupt its democratic progress. He said the threat is more menacing at present because it is being planned from abroad more systematically. The deployment of resources and propaganda is more sustained and the infusion of arms and ammunition more blatant and deadly.

The home minister expressed the fear that withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan following the Geneva accord and reduction of tension in the region might lead to an increase in disruptive activities all along India's western border. He recounted the steps taken by the government to deal with this grave situation and said besides action at political level, a great deal of work is required to be done by the administration and the police forces. The recent meeting held in Punjab with district magistrates and police officers have led to some very useful and practical steps aimed at controlling the situation in Punjab, he added.

'Major Administration Shake-Up' in Punjab

BK181629 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Excerpts] In a major administrative shake-up, the Punjab government today transferred some IAS [Indian Administrative Service] and IPS [Indian Police Service] officers and created three new police districts to check terrorism in the state. The officers transferred include 29 from the IAS and 15 from IPS. Two of the new police districts are Tarn Taran and Baba Bakala in Amritsar District and the third is Batala in Gurdaspur District. A new post of special secretary has been created in the state home department. The governor, Mr S. S. Ray, told newsmen in Chandigarh today that the government has a definite plan to tackle the Punjab problem.

Six hard-core terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Amritsar District this afternoon. According to the additional director general of police, Mr Gill, some persons opened fire on a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] patrol party when challenged. The patrol party returned the fire. In the encounter, which lasted for 2 hours, six terrorists were killed. Three CRPF personnel, including a subinspector, received serious bullet injuries. The condition of one of them is described as critical. A large quantity of arms and ammunition including Chinese assault rifles, hand grenades, and some Army uniforms have been recovered. [passage omitted]

Seven intruders from Pakistan were killed in encounters with BSF [Border Security Force] personnel. While five were shot dead in village Mahawa in Atari sector, two were killed in Ajnala sector.

14 Killed by Punjab 'Terrorists' 16 Apr

BK170340 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] In Punjab, 10 terrorists and 3 CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [soldiers] were among 14 persons killed last night in separate incidents. In Amritsar District, seven hard-core terrorists and three CRPF jawans were killed in an encounter in a village. A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including three Chinese rifles, were recovered. The terrorists included the self-styled (?General) Hari Singh of Chola Saheb and Jassa Singh of Santpura. They were involved in a number of crimes. In another encounter in Jullundur, two terrorists were killed in Dhariwal. In Bhatinda District, one terrorist was killed and another was injured in Thatha village. In Karnaina, one person was gunned down by a terrorist.

'Terrorists' Kill 5 in Punjab Incidents 18 Apr

BK190329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead five persons in separate incidents. An assistant subinspector of police, (But Singh), was shot dead in village Chakundal in Jullundur District last night. A primary school teacher was gunned down in village Bholi in Amritsar District. In Faridkot District, a prominent worker of the Akali Dal-Barnala group, Mr Malkiat Singh, and his driver died on the spot, when some unidentified persons attacked them near Rania village last night. His bodyguard died of injuries in Moga civil hospital later. The assailants managed to escape.

Paper Charges Pakistan With Arming Sikhs

BK171114 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 5 Apr 88 p 1

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 4 April (UNITED NEWS OF INDIA, PTI)—There is "definite information" that Pakistan has pledged all kinds of assistance to Khalistan supporters to help fulfill their intentions. Pakistan's only condition is that Lahore and other Pakistani areas not be included in the map of Khalistan.

According to intelligence sources, under this agreement terrorists are being continuously supplied with modern weapons, including AK-47's and RPG's from across the border. Punjab Governor Sidhartha Shanker Ray also said in Amritsar today that the government has "impeccable evidence" that the neighboring state is giving arms and ammunition to the terrorists free of cost in order to undermine India.

According to the sources, the terrorists do not lack arms. The main weapons are either supplied by Pakistan or purchased through funds collected overseas or by looting banks. Internecine fighting within various terrorist groups has further complicated the Punjab situation. The sources add that many experts trained in the United States and Canada in guerrilla warfare and sabotage have infiltrated into Punjab and are training the terrorists in the use of sophisticated weapons. These experts themselves are terrorists who fled the country and received special training in various private institutions in the United States, Canada, and the FRG. The sources say these institutions teach mass slaying, methods of blowing up bridges and buildings, and other acts of sabotage.

According to intelligence reports, the terrorists have been able to acquire about half a dozen missiles and 100 rockets from across the border. However, these rockets can only damage high-rise buildings. Chinese-made AK-47 rifles and U.S. carbines are more dangerous than these rockets. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Drive Against Drug Smugglers

The drive against drug trafficking from across the Pakistan border continues. The director to Revenue Intelligence and Narcotics Control Bureau officials have seized 3 kg of heroin worth 3 crore rupees. It was seized from four persons, who crossed the border in the Jodhpur sector of Rajasthan last week. The Border Security Force recently seized 8 kg of brown sugar [heroin] worth 8 crore rupees and nearly 4,000 kg of charas [hashish] in Amritsar. [Text] [*BK190434 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Apr 88*]

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed on Gulf Events

NC181825 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1609 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, spokesman of the Supreme Defense Council and speaker of the Majlis, by an unidentified correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the "Resistance Until Victory" program in Tehran on 18 April—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Thank you for your time. As you know, Iraq, with U.S. support, made new moves in southern operational sector yesterday and today. What is Your Excellency's analysis of these moves?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Due to the blows Iraq has received in the north, a massive international plot was hatched and preparations made to counteract this development. It is natural they should think of taking serious action, but this action could not be undertaken by Iraq alone.

There appears to be complete coordination on the international level, on the level of the superpowers and reactionaries, aimed at resuscitating the Iraqi 'Aflaqis and boosting their morale. An accident occurs in the Persian Gulf which appears to be rigged by elements we cannot yet identify—maybe even the Iraqis—causing an explosion and damaging a U.S. warship. Perhaps it was the Americans themselves. They say the mine was so big it injured 10 men. Any perceptive individual aware of the explosive strength of a mine or that kind of warship should wait until the warship is completely sunk! [sentence as heard] The captain of the warship himself said it is amazing no one was drowned.

As this incident is taking place, and simultaneously with the Americans' convening a National Security Council session, Iraq initiates its moves in Al-Faw and Bubiyan Island becomes the venue of general preparations involving helicopters and boats for these operations. According to reports from the fronts, there were eight apparently

unidentified helicopters, but those who monitored the messages exchanged are positive they were American. However, we require more definite evidence. They were definitely non-Iraqi helicopters. They attacked from another point of Al-Faw, and, as you are aware, three oil platforms were savagely attacked in the Persian Gulf, as were some (?floating) units. This indicates that coordination was complete. Consider this: The Russians provide Iraq with an unbelievable and an unacceptable quantity of missiles which have been altered at the rear of the battlefield; and international propaganda throws suspicion on the hijacking. This indicates that for Saddam's salvation, the infidel and anti-Islamic forces of the world have taken a serious, decisive step and entered the arena.

[Correspondent] With regard to this issue, Kuwait has entered a new phase in its support for Iraq by putting Bubiyan Island at its disposal for an attack on the Al-Faw Peninsula. Could you please give us your views in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Kuwait has been on Iraq's side from the outset. It has linked its destiny with Iraq. It is natural that at this juncture it should be more enthusiastic than others to participate, and it has participated. Well, we should think about our response.

[Correspondent] Does Your Excellency view the "Resistance Until Victory" program?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, of course.

[Correspondent] If you viewed this program last night you must have seen the people air their views, heard what our compatriots said about the war situation. Of course, we had some reports from the city today as well, similar to yesterday's reports, that the people want definite measures to be taken on the fronts. Many of our compatriots said they are willing to go to the fronts and to place all their assets at the disposal of the government so that the fate of the war may be decided once and for all. Could you tell us what you have decided in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] When I listened to the views of these people I was really overjoyed at their intelligent opinions. It was very interesting for me. This is the very conclusion we reached quite a while ago. In my latest Friday prayers sermon I mentioned this, and earlier his eminence the imam very clearly told youths to go to the fronts. The crux of the matter is that the people have the right sentiments. We can see that the world has decided—by the world we mean the oppressive, anti-Islamic powers—that a serious effort must be made to save Saddam and tie our hands. We cannot wait any longer. If in the past we waited because we thought perhaps they would accept our warning or the fact that their resistance was futile and thus adopt the right path, it appears now that these hopes were unrealistic. They have been warned to a considerable extent. This Al-Faw move proves we should wait no longer. I agree with the people, who have said this in their own simple manner. It is interesting that all the people wish to go to the fronts to decide the matter. However, these issues cannot be decided this way. The fronts have a certain set of circumstances; only special forces can prove effective there. If the people went to the fronts, they would only hinder the movement of the troops. Nothing would be achieved. Youths who have been trained or have participated in the war, or those who are ready to volunteer, should participate extensively. We have the readiness to carry out operations on a number of fronts. This is the truth of the matter; this is our assessment.

In answer to the people's call to officials and their suggestions, I wish to say that youths, particularly trained ones, should join up without delaying even 1 day. They should report to mobilization centers. I know that our commanders, the IRGC, and the Armed Forces are ready to fulfill the wishes of the people. We should not waste this opportunity. If we do, the enemy will captialize on it.

[Correspondent] If (?in conclusion) Your Excellency has any message for the people, it would be appreciated. If you wish to add anything else, please do. [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As you said, I have given the message. The Supreme War Support Council issued an announcement making it obligatory for all forces ready for war to participate. If the necessary support for the Supreme War Support Council is forthcoming, I promise the people on behalf of the fighters that their wishes will be speedily fulfilled.

[Correspondent] I thank you for giving us your precious time.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] May the Almighty give us all greater success!

Khamene'i Warns U.S. of 'Bitter Consequences'

LD191207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] A number of the steadfast and heroic members of the Hezbollahi ummah, families of martyrs, and members of Tehran guilds, together with some powerful fighters of Islam, made some donations to the battlefronts of the war between truth and falsehood in confronting the joint conspiracy of America and its mercenary agents in the Persian Gulf. These donations were presented in a ceremony to President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council.

According to the Central News Unit, Khamene'i thanked the people for their extensive presence on all fronts of the revolution, demonstrating the unity and solidarity existing between the people and the fronts. He said: This unbreakable bond will decide the fate of the war, which will be our victory. Referring to America's dastardly

attacks on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, the president said: The American regime has revealed itself as a bullying and violent force in the region and throughout the world. Moreover, having no respect for international regulations and values as accepted by the world, it engages in foolish deeds. Certainly, if the truth is revealed to the American people from behind the hypocritical mask of propaganda, they will question and reprimand themselves [as heard].

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added: In its dealings with the Islamic Revolution the American regime is acting foolishly and undoubtedly it will experience bitter consequences. Continuing his remarks, the president said: In order to support Saddam, America has directly entered the field and since yesterday it has been fanning the flames of war in the Persian Gulf on a false pretence. We announce that we will respond powerfully to America's aggressive and bullying attack on oil platforms and to the murder of innocent people.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to the decisive response of the fighters of Islam to America's bestial attack and to the downing of one helicopter and the setting fire to an American warship [as heard], and said: We gave a response to the aggression of the Great Satan, and from now on we will continue our strong and powerful retaliation. America and its allies should know that their efforts to save the 'Aflaqi regime are useless.

In conclusion, the president referred to the comprehensive support of foreign forces for Saddam and said: If this enormous investment of might assists Saddam in the short term, it will most certainly have no effect in the future except to bring shame and disgrace to world arrogance and its agents. Our fighters will continue their just and holy battle until final victory. According to our correspondent, during those ceremonies 229.16 million rials in cash and 120 pieces of gold were presented to the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council as donations for the war effort.

Swiss Envoy Summoned

LD191656 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] The Swiss ambassador in Tehran was summoned yesterday afternoon to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry as the person in charge of protecting U.S. interests in the Islamic Republic of Iran. A strongly worded note concerning the impudent U.S. aggression against the waters of our country and the attack on the oil platforms and military forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran was handed to him. It was stressed that the United States will receive the response to this impudent aggression, and that the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its right to crush the United States' aggressor forces.

Velayati Sends 2 Letters to Perez de Cuellar

NC190537 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Report on telephone call by an unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London—recorded]

[Text] Our Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati has sent two letters to the UN secretary general. The letters were handed over to the UN Secretariat last night. Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, stated in an interview that the two letters handed over to the UN Secretariat were on Iraq's use of Bubiyan Island and Kuwait's responsibility in connection with the consequences of this act, and on the U.S. military attack against three Iranian civilian oil platforms, respectively. He stated: These letters ask the UN Security Council whether it will remain silent in the face of these attacks and give in to U.S. blackmail.

Mahallati added: Our foreign minister's letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar states that the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf has not only failed to help security in this region, it has actually increased the insecurity of this important international waterway. The letter also states: The U.S. attempt was aimed at cooperating with Baghad and was an effort to overshadow Iraq's use of chemicals in Halabjah.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, London.

Velayati, 'Future Leader' Montazeri Meet 17 Apr

LD181500 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Qom, April 18, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati conferred with future leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, here Sunday. In the meeting, at which some Foreign Ministry deputies were also present, important issues of the country were discussed.

Later the same day, Velayati met the kin of those martyred in the course of Iraqi missile attacks on this holy city. The bereaved families urged the foreign minister to reflect to international circles the recurring anti-human and anti-Islamic Iraqi crimes against Iranian civilians. In response Velayati expressed hope that Muslim combatants will soon take revenge on the criminal Iraqi regime for the martyrdom of defenseless civilians.

Further Reportage, Comment on U.S. 'Attacks'

Communique No 3,176

LD181715 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—U.S. warships and helicopters in an unprovoked aggression against the Islamic Republic, attacked three Iranian oil rigs in the

Persian Gulf at 09:00 and 09-23 hours local time (05:30 and 05:55 GMT) Monday, martyring and wounding several workers and oil technicians, said a military communique here today.

The 3176th Joint Staff communique added that simultaneous with the fresh U.S. aggression, Washington's ally the Ba'thist regime of Iraq in continuation of its crimes chemically bombed Iranian positions in the Al-Faw theatre, at 09:00 and 09:23 hours local time (05:30 and 05:53 GMT) Monday. It said, Iranian jet-fighters flew 27 sorties from 05:40 to 15:30 hours local time (02:10 and 12:00 GMT) Monday heavily pounding Iraqi positions and troop cencentration sites in the Al-Faw peninsula. After inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy all aircraft returned safely to bases.

The Air Force also felw three other combat missions deep inside northern Iraq Monday morning, heavily bombing military and economic centres of 'Aqrah, Qal'at Dizah and Dahuk, said the communique. Iranian long range artillery fire shelled Iraqi eco-military centres in Al-Sulaymaniyah, Badra, Salman Faraj, Saida-hamdan, Basra, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Naft Khaneh, Khanaqin, Banmil, Dushaykh and Mandali as well as Dukan Dam, Chuman Mostafa, Qasr, Dar al-Salam and Qal'at Dizah garrisons Sunday night. The Iranian reprisal shelling inflicted heavy casualties and losses on the enemy.

Iran's Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi positions, supply routes and troop concentration sites throughout the fronts Sunday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several light and heavy vehicles of theirs.

In Panjwin and Sumar, northwestern and western sectors, Iranian artillery fire suppressed activities of Iraqi tank squarons yesterday, inflicted heavy losses on them. In Sumar, western fronts, Iranian artillery fire inflicted several casualties on an Iraq patrol unit Sunday.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian naval gunboats intercepted and searched two oil tankers Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, concluded the communique.

U.S. Oil Platform Attacked

LD181719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] By attacking Iran's economic installations in the Persian Gulf and the defensive positions of the forces of Islam south of Al-Faw, the criminal United States has embarked on a full-scale war with the Islamic people of Iran. According to an IRNA report, the ruling U.S. circles in a completely preplanned military conspiracy have attacked Iran's economic installations in the Persian Gulf and the defensive positions of the forces of Islam south of the Al-Faw region to assist the Iraqi regime and to augment that regime's military capability, pafticularly in the Al-Faw region. Salman and Nasr oil platforms were surrounded this morning by U.S. warships and came under heavy fire, while only a number of the employees of the Oil Ministry were stationed there. During the attacks on those oil platforms a number of the Oil Ministry employees were martyred or wounded.

Before they attacked those platforms, yesterday the mercenary U.S. forces used their helicopters to attack the defensive positions of the forces of Islam south of Al-Faw on a number of occasions within the context of the overt support for the Iraqi regime. At the same time as the attacks by U.S. helicopters, the rulers of the Kuwait shaykhdom placed the military facilities of Bubiyan Island at the disposal of the Iraqis, thus paving the way for the intensification of pressure on the forces of Islam by the U.S. and Iraqi forces.

The forces of Islam, which were simultaneously engaged in clashes with U.S. and Iraqi forces on land, at sea, and in the air, chose new defensive positions and concentrated the pressure of their military operations on the Persian Gulf and shelled a U.S. frigate and set it on fire.

According to this report, in response to the attacks by the U.S. forces yesterday and today against the defensive positions and economic installations of our country, the forces of Islam attacked an oil platform leased to U.S. companies and set it on fire. In addition, two Iranian frigates atacked U.S. warships following the attacks by U.S. frigates on Salman and Nasr oil platforms. Two Iranian frigates in a heroic battle against six U.S. frigates inflicted damages on a U.S. frigate and were themselves attacked by U.S. warships and sustained heavy damages.

Citizens Asked To 'Crush' U.S.

LD181821 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] The following statement was issued tonight by the War Information Headquarters: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Muslim Iranian nation, rise, for Satan has risen against you. Rise, for the enemy is beating the war drums. Rise, for enemy has entered the field. Rise, for now shoulder to shoulder you should aim for the enemy's brow, for now you should engage in hand-to-hand battle against the arch infidel. Now you should drag the United States to dust, for now is the alloted time!

Steadfast and heroic Iranian ummah, after 8 years of war the criminal United States at last became convinced that, in order to save the Iraqi regime, it should directly enter the field of battle and openly take part in military operations in support of that regime. Now U.S. soldiers, these most-hated forces of the world, whose motivation and duty are not to defend the United States but to engage in devouring the world, in aggression, and in violating the rights of other nations in the world, have themselves entered the field of action. By attacking the

positions of the fighters of Islam and Iran's oil installations in the Persian Gulf, they have openly declared a war between U.S. capitalists and aggressors and the Muslim Iranian nation.

Muslim Iranian ummah, now we are going through one of the most sensitive junctures in the history of the Middle East and even the world. You, the Muslim nation, should perform your historical mission and your responsibility toward human society as the architects of this lasting phase of history. In one word, you should perform your Islamic duty in a befitting manner. Your actions and decisions today will shape not only the destiny of the people of the present age, but even the lives of future generations.

So rush toward the fronts to crush your aggressive enemies. Victory will finally belong to the believers!

Call for 'Sacred Defense'

LD181915 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 18 Apr 88

["World Enters Sensitive Stage as U.S. Iraq Alliance Bares Fangs at Islamic Iran"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—The Supreme War Support Council released a statement here Monday, calling on all Iranian people to "play their historical role," by massively participating in Iran's sacred defence against the U.S. aggression. The statement which came after Washington's open support for the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in the Al-Faw Peninsula, noted that both the Eastern and Western superpowers have involved themselves in the imposed war on the side of Baghdad, plunging the Persian Gulf into a historical and sensitive condition.

In related news, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in a statement issued here Monday called on Iranian volunteers to rush to the war fronts to counter the provocative U.S. moves in the Al-Faw Peninsula and the Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile, a statement released by War Information Headquarters (WIH), said the U.S. has finally gambled on direct involvement in the Iraqi-imposed war, in a desperate bid to save the Ba'thist regime from its doomed fate, eight years after the start of its aggression. The WIH statement called on the Iranian Muslim people to rush to the battlefields to fulfil their historical and Islamic duty at one of the most crucial junctures in the history of the Middle East and the world.

School Children To Go to Fronts

LD181735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] As a result of the coordination of U.S. and Iraqi military attacks, as well as the cooperation granted to these criminals by the Kuwaiti shaykhdom, some 16,000 forces comprised of schoolchildren who either have been to the fronts before or have undergone training, are preparing to join the forces of Islam. According to an IRNA report, the action undertaken by the War Support Department of Khorasan Education Department, the organization of mobilization volunteer forces from schools of the province, as well as all forces subject to the phased deployment, has also started.

The Central News Unit, in a related dispatch from Mashhad, reports that following the announcement by IRGC Headquarters regarding a rush of forces to the fronts, a large number of trained forces from Quchan left for the fronts of the country today. In addition, a number of combat and specialist forces were sent to the fronts under the banner of the caravan of supporters of the warriors of the lord of martyrs, blessings be upon him, through the action of the War Support Headquarters of Damqan construction crusade.

U.S. 'Preventing' Rescue

LD182028 Tehran IRNA in English 2022 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—The U.S. naval units after attacking the southern Iranian territorial waters and setting ablaze Salman and Nasr oil platforms Monday morning are reportedly preventing rescue teams and fire fighters from approaching the oil rigs. American warships have besieged the region while the U.S. Administration, in a bid to justify its aggression, has announced the incident has ended.

In another confrontation in the continental shelf waters, Iran's naval units forced three American warplanes attempting to provide air cover for their naval warships countering Iranian naval vessels, to flee.

Iranian warships in a heroic clash with the aggressor American helicopters in the Persian Gulf shot down one of them Monday afternoon.

The Iranian naval forces also managed to rescue most of the personnel of "Jowshan" frigate which was hit in an unequal battle with American warships in the southern tip of the Persian Gulf Monday afternoon.

Meanwhile, some intruding American warplanes fired missiles at a number of Iranian gunboats trying to help civilian personnel of the platforms attacked by the U.S. Navy inflicting heavy losses on one boat. The U.S. warplanes were later forced to flee by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

U.S. Warned of 'Harsh Response'

LD181743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] The statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry about the U.S. attacks on Iran's oil platforms is the subject of our first news report,to which we draw your attention:

The aggressive U.S. Government, continuing its hostile acts and propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a pre-planned move used its naval fleet and aircraft to attack the Nasr, Salman, and Mobarak oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, which belong to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and inflicted serious damage upon those economic centers. The policy of sending forces to the Persian Gulf, undertaken by the United States and its allies with the aim of preventing the defeat of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, has only increased tension. Therefore, when the defeat of that policy became clear, there was no further excuse for the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf. Some Western countries were even forced to reduce their war fleets in the Gulf.

However, in view of the Iraqi regime's recent defeats on the battlefields—proving the ineffectiveness of enemy pressures and missile and air attacks on cities—arrogant and reactionary circles, whose interests include saving Saddam and increasing tension and insecurity in the region, started another conspirational move. The suspicious collision of a U.S. frigate with a mine provided the excuse for this conspiracy. Placing Bubiyan Island at the disposal of the Iraqis as a base for Iraqi aggression, U.S. direct involvement in the war developments, Iraqi's extensive use of chemical weapons in Al-Faw, and today's aggressive U.S. attacks on the oil platforms of the Islamic Republic of Iran can all be regarded as further stages of that pre-planned conspiracy.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while condemning the U.S. attacks on Iranian oil platforms—a clear violation of the territorial integrity of a Muslim, independent and nonaligned country—announces: Now that the United States has openly entered the war against Iran in favor of the Iraqi regime, the United States should expect a harsh response from the Muslim Iranian nation—a nation which has so far defeated all U.S. conspiracies, a nation which is prepared to fight and confront the United States in order to bring disgrace upon that country's empty power in the region. This time, this nation will provide a response which will sever the roots of the U.S. existence in the region.

Malekzadegan Interviewed

LD191139 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] The commander of the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in an interview with correspondents today, elaborated on the legendary fight and resistance by the naval forces against the mercenary U.S. military personnel. He stated the brave fighters of the naval forces will not rest so long as one aggressive American remains in the Persian Gulf.

Describing the full-fledged naval battle between the Iranian naval forces and the aggressive U.S. Navy, Commodore Malekzadegan said: Once the Nasr and Salman oil platforms were surrounded and the U.S. warships had attacked them, Iranian warships entered the arena to confront the U.S. aggression and save the lives of the crew. They engaged the U.S. warships in battle. He added: The frigate "Jowshan" engaged both U.S. planes flying overhead and U.S. warships. The commander of the Navy added: The selfless personnel of the frigate "Jowshan" fought on two fronts at the same time, in the air and on the sea. In the course of this battle between the "Jowshan" and several U.S. planes and warships, the "Jowshan" opened fire on U.S. planes and ships. The frigate itself was the target of U.S. attacks. He said: The courageous crew continued their battle against the aggressive enemy to their last breath and their last bullet. He said: Some of the crew who had bailed out continued their fight against the aggressive U.S. forces while being fired at by the mercenary U.S. military personnel. At the end of this uneven battle, 15 crew members were martyred and 29 injured.

The commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran added: "Sahand" and "Sabalan" warships took part in a courageous battle against several U.S. planes. He said: In the course of this battle, "Sahand" and "Sabalan" fired heavily on U.S. planes. An enemy plane might possibly have been hit. Commodore Malekzadegan added: In the course of the fight with "Sahand" and "Sabalan" warships, aggressive U.S. planes fired several missiles at them. As a result, several crew members were martyred or wounded. Several others were saved by the selfless personnel of the Navy.

The commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy then stressed: America yesterday met with the resistance and courage of the brave fighters of the Iranian Navy. America now realizes the Iranian fighters will not rest until the last breath and the last bullet. Therefore, as long as even one American remains in the Persian Gulf, the brave children of the Iranian nation will avenge the blood shed by their comrades in arms.

Commander on Cobra Downing

LD191124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] During the confrontation between the fighters of the IRGC naval forces and U.S. aggressors yesterday and last night, one oil platform under the control of a U.S. company, one logistic vessel of the U.S. Navy, and one Cobra helicopter of the aggressive U.S. Armed Forces were set on fire and a large number of U.S. personnel were killed or wounded.

Mr Hoseyn 'Ala'i, commander of the IRGC naval forces, in an interview with correspondents in the Persian Gulf region, said: In the course of yesterday's clashes in the Persian Gulf, which were started with the direct involvement of the criminal United States in support of the Zionist Iraqi regime in attacks on the operational regions in Al-Faw, and the attack of U.S. warships against defenseless and nonmilitary Nasr and Salman oil fields, the fighters of the IRGC naval forces, in carrying our their mission, 2 hours after the attack by the aggressive

U.S. forces brought one U.S.-controlled oil platform under the fire of their gunboats and destroyed it. The smoke rising from the destroyed installations can still be seen in the region. Also, the self-sacrificing IRGC and heroic Basij forces operating from the IRGC gunboats 1 hour later brought a logistical vessel of the aggressive U.S. forces in the region under their crushing and heavy fire and sank that vessel with all its crew in the waters of the Persian Gulf.

Regarding the clashes between the gunboats and U.S. aircraft and helicopters in the Persian Gulf, the commander of the IRGC naval forces said: In the course of these operations, in a heavy clash one Cobra helicopter of the U.S. Navy also came under the fire of the fighters of our naval force and was set on fire with all its crew and sank to the depths of the Persian Gulf. In the course of that clash one of our boats was also damaged.

At the end of this interview the commander of the IRGC naval forces noted the preparedness of the flotilla [navtipha], naval rangers [takavaran darya'i], brave speedboat crews, and fighters of the missile unit of the IRGC naval forces in confronting U.S. aggression and asked the heroic youths of the country and brave Basij forces to take part wholeheartedly in the extraordinary dispatch of the Imam Husayn Forces, peace be upon him, to the battlefronts and to foil the joint conspiracy of the United States and Arab reactionaries in protecting the declining regime of the Zionist Saddam.

SAIRI Condemns U.S. Attack

LD190944 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—The SAIRI of Iraq in a statement Tuesday condemned the shameful aggression of U.S. forces against two oil platforms of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a clear collaboration of Great Satan (the U.S.) with the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. The statement said that the U.S. participation in the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran reflects the inability of Saddam Husayn to confront Muslim combatants.

The support of the world arrogance and regional reactionaries against the Islamic Republic of Iran occurs at a time Muslim combatants are overcoming enemy fortifications one by one and are determined to annihilate the Iraqi Ba'thist regime which is behind all wicked acts and corruption in the region.

Meanwhile, forces under the command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Central Province, announced readiness to join Muslim combatants in the Persian Gulf.

Al-Faw, Other Military Operations Continue

Toxic Gas Affects Abadan

LD181238 Tehran IRNA in English 1224 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—The Iraqi Ba'thist regime, emboldened by international laxity toward its gruesome crimes, chemically bombarded Iranian positions in the Al-Faw peninsula several times Sunday night and Monday morning.

The fresh Iraqi chemical attacks, follows the bitter defeats inflicted on the Ba'thist forces in northern Iraq, and comes within a month of the Halabjah chemical holocaust (March 18), which killed over 5,000 Iraqi Kurds and wounded 7,000 others.

Though several countries have denounced the horrid chemical attack of the Iraqi regime, but the world is yet to see any serious action against Baghdad to prevent its recurring crimes.

Enemy chemical attacks on Al-Faw were so heavy today that toxic gases contaminated parts of the southern Iranian port city of Abadan, across the Arvand River. Iran's anti-chemical units quickly swung into action to neutralize the toxic effects and transfer of victims of the new Iraqi crime to hospitals is underway.

Iraqi Plane Downed in Al-Faw

LD181716 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—An Iraqi Sukhoi-22 jet was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the Al-Faw Peninsula at 16:14 hours local time (12:44 GMT) Monday, said a Joint Staff communique here today. The enemy plane was destroyed in the air, it added.

SAIRI To Fight in Al-Faw

LD181723 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Badr Division 9 of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) today announced its readiness for direct confrontation with the joint U.S.-Iraqi troops in the Al-Faw operational theater.

In a statement released here, following the dastardly U.S. attack on Iranian oil platforms as well as the Al-Faw operational theater, it categorically condemned Washington's new crimes. It said that the Baghdad regime is collaboration with the "war mongering" U.S. Administration made futile attempts in the Al-Faw peninsula and the Persian Gulf in a vain bid to cover up its loss of vast parts of northern Iraq including Halabjah, Khurmal and Dujaylah towns as well as to distract attention from its chemical massacre at Halabjah.

The military wing of SAIRI called on all its forces to register their names for the despatch to the region.

The U.S. forces in collaboration with Iraqi and Kuwaiti regimes attacked Muslim combatants suppressed their attempts. Some Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf were also the target of U.S. aggressor forces and sustained damage.

Qom Hit by Iraqi Missiles

LD180408 Tehran IRNA in English 0405 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Qom, April 18, IRNA—Civilian quarters in the holy city of Qom were subjected to Iraqi missile attacks early this morning. A number of people were martyred and wounded and some houses and shops as well as a mosque were damaged in these attacks.

Tehran, Esfahan Hit by Missiles

LD180754 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Residential areas in Tehran and Esfahan came under enemy missile attacks this morning. A number of people were martyred and wounded and some property damage was inflicted. Several shops and cars were also damaged.

Tehran Casualties From Missiles

LD181644 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Several Iranian civilians including some children and women were martyred and many others wounded in Iraqi missile attack on residential areas in Tehran and its air raid on civilian quarters in Dezful, Monday afternoon. Some houses were also damaged in the savage Iraqi attacks.

Reprisals on Iraqi Cities

LD180552 Tehran IRNA in English 0545 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Iranian warplanes pounded military and economic targets in Iraqi cities of Dahuk, Qa'lat Dizah and 'Aqra in three sorties Monday inflicting heavy losses and damage on them, said a military communique here Monday. The operations were in reprisal for Iraq's attacks on Iranian residential areas Sunday. All fighters returned safely to base. The attacks were carried out at 06:37, 06:40 and 09:35 hours local time (03:07, 03:10, and 06:05 GMT).

10 Missiles Fired at Iraq

LD181518 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Ten surface-to-surface missiles were slammed at military and economic centers in Baghdad, Khanaqin and Basra Monday by Iranian Muslim combatants in retaliation for the recurring Iraqi crimes.

General Command of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) announcing the above said in a communique that missile units of IRGC air and Ground Forces fired ten missiles into military and economic centers of the said Iraqi cities in retaliation for Iraqi air and missile attacks on Iranian civilian areas.

More Missiles Hit Qom, Esfahan

LD190508 Tehran IRNA in English 0506 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—Residential areas in Qom, Esfahan, and Shiraz were targets of Iraqi missile attacks Monday night and Tuesday morning. The Iraqi attacks claimed lives of scores of civilians and injured a number of others. Many houses and shops were also ruined.

'Several' Die in Tehran Attack

LD191036 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—A residential quarter in Tehran was struck by an Iraqi missile Tuesday morning. Several residents were martyred in the attack and a number of others injured. Several homes were also damaged.

Tehran Cites U.S. Expert on Situation in Gulf

NC190622 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, military observers believe that the recent phase of the conflict between the U.S. and Iranian forces in the Persian Gulf has given rise to the threat that the United States will be drawn into a greater and more dangerous conflict in the coming weeks. A member of the private Center for Defense Information has said that Iran is controlling the intensification of military activities and may possibly inflict a strong retaliatory blow. Robin Wright, a U.S. military expert on Persian Gulf affairs, gave an interview in which she referred to the possible escalation of the conflict in this region and said: The fact that the U.S. attacks took place in tandem with Iraq's first major ground offensive against Iran during the past 2 years strengthens Tehran's allegation that Washington is clearly supporting Iraq.

Tehran Comments on U.S. Navy Ship Hitting Mine
LD171408 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Following the incident in which a U.S. warship hit a mine in the Persian Gulf toward the end of last week, our country's WIH spokesman has described the incident as the natural result of the aggressive U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf. He added: If the United States undertakes any new aggression against Iran, the Islamic Republic will confront it severely and will undoubtedly respond to U.S. wickedness.

The incident occured as follows: Last Thursday a U.S. warship with 225 people aboard and escorting Kuwaiti ships hit a mine 160 km east of Bahrain, sustaining damage. According to U.S. declarations, 10 of that U.S. warship's personnel were wounded in the explosion and the warship was towed by a tugboat to Dubayy.

In the meantime, the ship's commander said they were lucky the ship did not sink, saying the damage was serious and structural. Immediately after the incident, U.S. officials said the reason for the incident was unknown and refrained from attributing it to a specific country. The chairman of the Congressional Armed Forces Committee also said in an interview on U.S. television that there were still doubts and uncertainities about the object hit by the frigate "Samuel Roberts" in the Persian Gulf Thursday, but that there was a strong possibility the frigate had hit a mine. He added: If the frigate had hit mines which, according to his claims, had been laid by Iran, it would probably have sunk. Therefore, the mine must either have been very small or else it was defective. He said: The mine was probably an Iraqi mine that had strayed from a region mined by Iraq.

At the same time, one day after the incident, Reagan participated in a meeting attended by the minister of war, the secretary of state, the vice president, and the U.S. joint chiefs for discussions on the reasons behind the incident. On the other hand, certain U.S. circles, too, by resorting to various methods such as saying that the mines were laid recently and that they resemble the mines on the "Iran-Ajr," have tried to link it with the Islamic Republic of Iran in some way. However, on this issue the White House spokesman, on behalf of the Reagan administration, explicitly said he had no information.

The occurrence of this accident in the Persian Gulf has once again shown in practice that the aggressive presence of U.S. forces has not only increased tension and insecurity in this sensitive region, but has at the same time, even with the increasing number of minesweepers and U.S. warships, not even increased the security of their own forces either. The factors that have persistently been involved in the creation of tension in the Persian Gulf have been the Iraqi regime's aggressive policy of attacking ships, and the support of the superpowers and the region's reactionary governments for that policy.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always warned about the dangerous consequences of continuing such policies and has consistently asked for an immediate halt to the wicked acts of Saddam's regime and the withdrawal of foreign forces from the sensitive Persian Gulf region. Based on the remarks by the chairman of the Arms Services Committee of the U.S. Congress, Washington is also aware of the danger of its policies in the Persian Gulf. The Armed Services Committee chairman said in his recent interview: If we have seen any results from the implementation of our dangerous policy in the Persian Gulf, it has been due to good luck and nothing else.

Musavi Terms Ramadan 'Month of Resistance'
LD171628 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 7 Apr 88

["Cabinet Deplores U.S. Vetoing of Anti-Zionist Resolution"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA—A cabinet session chaired by Pemier Hoseyn Musavi today reviewed developments concerning Afghanistan and Washington's blind support for the regime occupying Qods through vetoing a U.N. Security Council resolution against Israel.

In a talk after the session, the prime minister congratulated the Muslim nation of Iran on the beginning of the fasting holy month of Ramadan terming it "a month of resistance against Western and Eastern plots and a month for people's spiritual basij (mobilization) for continuation of struggle against blasphemy."

Musavi stressed that Iranian people's resistance will guarantee the Islamic Republic's independence under the banner of Islam for good. Today, he added, it is incumbent for Muslims to take revenge on oppressive powers for their tyrannies against oppressed people. "We are duty-bound to fulfill our people's legitimate rights so that no one would ever dream of dominating our nation in future," he emphasised.

Commentary on Responsibility for Al-Wazir Murder
LD171955 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1350 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Political commentary of "The Familiar Voice" program]

[Text] Yesterday the PLO announced that seven unidentified armed men assassinated Khalil al-Wazir, known as Abu Jihad, a high-ranking official in the PLO, in Tunisia. The PLO statement says: Abu Jihad, who was shot in his house by seven armed men, died after being taken to hospital.

There are no further details on the assassination of Abu Jihad and so far no group or organization has claimed responsibility for his murder. However, their are two possibilities for his murder. The first is that the Israelis carried out that act; and the second is that he was assassinated by anti-'Arafat groups. Regarding the first possibility, one can say that despite the fact that the compromising approach of 'Arafat and his wing can no longer pose a problem to the Israelis, nevertheless the assassination of Abu Jihad has been another step in keeping with Tel Aviv's efforts to intimidate the PLO.

The second possibility, namely that anti-'Arafat factions murdered Abu Jihad, is based on the fact that Khalil al-Wazir was one of the most faithful allies of 'Arafat and supported the positions of the leader of the Fatah movement. It is said that he had made use of the Al-'Asifah forces, the military wing of Al-Fatah, in April 1978 in order to crush Al-Fatah opponents. Abu Jihad was subjected to an assassination attempt once before in the past but he survived that attempt. However, the attempt on his life last Saturday morning led to his death.

In any case, if the assassination of Abu Jihad has been carried out by opponents of 'Arafat's wing, one should say that the line of compromise within the PLO has been seriously threatened. 'Arafat's wing, particularly after their expulsion from Lebanon in 1982, hastily stretched a hand of compromise toward Israel and tried to pave the way for a compromise with the Zionist regime. This led to many clashes between 'Arafat's wing and the wings opposed to him within the PLO, clashes that continue. The probability that Abu Jihad was assassinated within the context of these clashes is not unlikely. Nevertheless, one should wait for future events before being able to make a definite judgment.

Besharati on Reasons for UN Delegation Dispatch

LD170921 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Interview with First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati by unidentified announcer; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] The trip of Mr Larijani [deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs] to New York and his discussions with Security Council officials has interested the mass media worldwide. It is worth noting that Western newspapers have published various matters and threats in this connection. Due to a shortage of time, we will not look at them, but rather leave explanations on this subject to Mr Besharati, the honorable deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Mr Besharati, the foreign ministry's deputy for international affairs, recently went to New York and met with Security Council officials. Mr Besharati, please tell us about the overall results and the outcome of your trip.

[Besharati] At the height of our military and political strength, we have never rejected political solutions. The country's high-ranking authorities have repeatedly declared: If the Security Council, the United Nations, and other international circles identify and condemn Iraq as the one who started the war, we may give secondary importance to the military solution. However, under circumstances in which we have a powerful and amazing presence on the fronts, when the godly fingers of our fighters are on the triggers of their weapons and are awaiting the command to fire, when they have set their sights on the chests of the satanic Ba'thists, when we are encouraging our dear fighters in the mobilization forces to go to the fronts to fight blashphemy and infidelity, we must also encourage Mr Larijani to go to New York at the head of a delegation. In other words, we are prepared to listen to the world in whatever terms it chooses to speak to us.

Of course, there is one point I must make, and that is, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs always checks all its remarks, positions, and viewpoints with the high-ranking authorities of the country. In fact, I must say decisively and with faith that it was in accordance with the wish of the Islamic Republic's leaders and authorities that we sent a delegation to New York. A misunderstanding must not arise in our proud nation as to why, when our fighters have attained many victories for the people, we went to the United Nations. Is there any reason to place hope in that organization and in the Security Council? I say no. However, in order to remove all ambiguity and to give our final word and in order not to reject a political solution, we sent a delegation to New York.

We believe that Resolution No 598 has many positive points, but of course it has negative and ambiguous points as well. We have not rejected Resolution No 598. That is, our country has not rejected it. However, we have had discussions and communications with the honorable UN secretary general. We are in touch with him and have accepted the proposal of the secretary general. We believe that if the articles are moved around in Resolution No 598, it can provide a good basis for attainaing our wishes. For this reason we sent Mr Larijani to New York.

Foreign Ministry Condemns U.S. Veto at UN

LD162157 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] In connection with the U.S. veto of the UN resolution condemning the Zionist regime's unlawful actions in occupied Palestine, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman said: The United States vetoed the UN resolution in which the regime occupying Jerusalem was asked to stop deporting Palestinians from their land. Although this was not the first time the United States displayed its support for Israel by such moves, in light of the dimensions of the unlawful killings, restrictions, arrests, and deportations of Palestinians by the Zionists and of the world's hatred for these unprecedented

crimes, the recent U.S. veto demonstrates its all-round support for Israel's crimes in the occupied territories and its antagonism toward Islam and the rising Muslims of Palestine. This issue also has proved how baseless and untrue are the U.S. claims about defending human rights.

Condemning the U.S. veto, the Foreign Ministry spokesman added: Although the draft of this resolution was amended and changed in order to prevent a U.S. veto, the United States proved that, as Israel's main ally, it could not tolerate even this mild resolution on Israel's crimes. Therefore, the positions of those Arab regimes and Palestinian factions that have pinned their hopes on U.S. political moves and the Shultz plan for the Middle East will not be taken into account. If they continue to follow U.S. policies, these Arab and Muslim nations, acting alongside the United States and Israel, will divert and destroy the uprising of the Muslim Palestinian nation and assist in the continued Zionist domination over Islamic lands.

Congratulatory Telegrams Exchanged With USSR

LD150822 Moscow TASS in English 0740 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has sent President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic of Iran a telegram of congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of his country's national holiday, Revolution Day. The Iranian president in his reply telegram expressed gratitude for the congratulations and wished well-being and prosperity for the Soviet people.

The USSR Council of Ministers has sent a telegram on the same occasion to Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In his reply telegram the Iranian prime minister expressed gratitude for the congratulations.

Pakistan

President Sends Message to Gorbachev on Accord

BK170940 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has sent a message to the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, regarding the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan. The Pakistan ambassador in Moscow met the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, and handed over the message to him. The ambassador also exchanged views with the Soviet deputy foreign minister and both sides underscored the importance of the Geneva accord for ensuring peace and settling the complicated regional conflict.

Noorani Returns From Geneva Proximity Talks

BK160638 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr Zain Noorani has said that the signing of the Geneva agreements is the first step toward a comprehensive solution of the Afghanistan problem. He was talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport on his return home after signing the Geneva agreements. He said the agreements mostly relate to the Soviet troops withdrawal and foreign noninterference.

Mr Zain Noorani said Pakistan has emphasized from the beginning that peace will come to Afghanistan by establishing a broad-based interim government and by creating conditions under which the refugees can return to their homes in dignity and honor. He said Pakistan has obtained firm assurance from the signatories to the agreements, including the two guarantors, that they recognize the necessity to set up a broad-based government in Afghanistan. That is why Mr Cordovez will continue his efforts to assist in setting up an interim government representing all groups of the Afghan people.

The minister of state said nobody expects the signing of the Geneva agreements to end the fighting in Afghanistan. The fighting will end only after setting up of a broad-based government.

About an agreement between two superpowers on symmetry regarding military aid to the Kabul regime and the Afghan mujahidin, he said this agreement will restrain both superpowers from supplying arms.

More on Airport Remarks

BK160825 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, has said the Geneva accord on Afghanistan, which mainly deals with the external matters, would ultimately lead to a comprehensive settlement of that issue. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this morning on his return after signing the Geneva accord. He said during the last round of Geneva talks, Pakistan received messages from friendly countries, including the Islamic states, saying that they shared Pakistan's concern for the formation of a transitional government. It was, however, essential that Pakistan, while pressing for this, should not carry it to a breaking point which would give the Soviets an opportunity to go back on their commitment of withdrawal from the 15th of next month.

Mr Zain Noorani said Pakistan managed to get a firm commitment from the signatories, including the two guarantors, that they accepted the necessity for the formation of a broad-based government in Afghanistan. Mr Cordovez would continue his efforts in this regard. He said the achieving of the end result, that is, the

signing of the agreement, in such a situation was possible under the guidance and advice of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, with whom he remained in touch throughout.

Noorani Briefs Parliament on Geneva Accord

BK180822 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, has said the signing of the Geneva accord is the victory of Pakistan's principled foreign policy and the vindication of the stand adopted by Pakistan, its friends, and the Afghan people. He was briefing the joint sitting of parliament in Islamabad this morning on the Afghanistan accord signed in Geneva on the 14th of this month. He said the Geneva accord is the first step toward a comprehensive solution of the Afghan problem and the formation of a broad-based transitional government in Afghanistan. He said the two guarantors of the accord and the representative of the Kabul regime had also admitted the need for such a government without which there could be no peace in Afghanistan. He said Mr Cordovez has been asked to continue his efforts for the establishment of such government. He said he hopes the transitional government would be set up in a few months with the participation of those who had waged heroic struggle for the liberation of their land.

Earlier, responding to suggestions by some members for an immediate discussion on the Ojri Camp [ammunition dump] incident in Rawalpindi, the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, assured the members that all the available facts relating to the incident will be placed before the house for a full discussion. He said the government will not suppress the facts and he will himself place before the house all developments that have taken place in this regard. The prime minister recalled that it was the government itself which had initiated discussion on the incident in both the National Assembly and the Senate on the first available opportunity. He said he will have no objection if the Ojri Camp incident was discussed after the discussion on the Geneva accord today or parliament could meet on Wednesday for the purpose.

Detonations at Ammunition Dump Continue

5 Injured in Explosions 15 Apr

BK160759 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] In Pakistan, the Army ammunition depot near Islamabad was rocked again yesterday by explosions. A government spokesman said rockets fell on parts of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, injuring five people. He said the day's high temperature ignited smoldering fire left from the earlier blast, resulting in the detonation of rockets. It may be recalled that nearly 300 people were killed and more than 1,000 injured when explosions on Sunday sent bombs and rockets raining down on the two cities.

Remaining Ammunition Destroyed

BK161625 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] All possible measures have been taken by the authorities to prevent any further explosions in the Ojri Camp area near Rawalpindi. A spokesman of the Ministry of Defense says these measures have been devised in consultations with Pakistanis and foreign experts, who have arrived in the capital along with modern equipment. The measures are aimed at rendering all types of ammunition ineffective through various methods. Simultaneously, Army engineers are working vigorously to shift all collected ammunition for demolition to (Barakau), about 20 km from Rawalpindi. Demolition has been going on there for the last 3 days. It will continue for some time more.

The spokesman further said that possibility of odd mild explosions cannot be ruled out despite all precautionary and safety measures. The spokesman said no untoward incident took place today.

Bomb Explosions Explained

BK170646 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] It has been officially announced that the sound of explosions heard by the residents of Rawalpindi and Islamabad today was caused while destroying the unexploded bombs at (Barakau) which continued through 1100. These explosions will be heard again between 1530 and 1730 today. The announcement added that people should not worry about these explosions.

The relief commissioner for those affected in the Rawalpindi explosions has said that the relief operations have entered their final stage with the payment of compensation to most of the families of those killed in the explosions and surveying the buildings damaged in the incident. He told APP in Islamabad that 56 checks have been issued to owners of private buildings in Islamabad and 15 persons in Rawalpindi as compensation for the damage to their properties. The relief commissioner said that according to latest report of the survey teams, 1,357 buildings were damaged in the Rawalpindi blasts, of which 90 were completely destroyed, 130 were heavily damaged, and the rest slightly damaged.

Explosion Causes 10 Casualties

BK170824 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Defense said in Rawalpindi today that the situation in the Ojri Camp area is well under control and the authorities are taking

all conceivable measures to rule out any possibility of further explosions. The spokesman added that a bomb burst in the hands of an Army bomb disposal squad in the camp area this morning. It resulted in a total of 10 casualties: One soldier embraced shahadat [martydom], four lost their limbs, while the others suffered relatively minor injuries. The survivors have been treated in the hospital. The spokesman further said, meanwhile, a planned destruction of collected ammunition at (Barakau) is continuing today. It started at 0830 this morning and continued till 1100 and will resume from 1530 to 1730 today.

Area 'Completely Safe'

BK181551 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] A Defense Ministry spokesman said in Rawalpindi this evening that as a result of comprehensive measures taken by the Army last week, the areas surrounding Ojri Camp [site of ammunition dump blasts] have been made completely safe. There is no cause for any alarm nor fear, nor is there any need to evacuate the area. All bombs, rockets, and projectiles found in various areas of Rawalpindi and Islamabad have been collected and defused. The spokesman has advised the people not touch anything nor to take them home for souvenirs, as they are likely to be dangerous. The Army engineers are now dealing with the central part of the ammunition dump so that explosive material still buried can be retrieved and deactivated. Should any explosion take place in the ammunition dump area, it will only affect a 25-yard area. The spokesman said the sound of explosions now being heard are caused by the orderly deactivation of the arms under the supervision of the Army. During the month of Ramadan, these arms will be defused from 0600 to 1100 in the morning every day.

21 Killed in Police Clash With Tribesmen

BK161242 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] In Pakistan, 21 persons have been killed in clashes between security forces and armed tribesmen near Peshawar. This happened when the security forces tried to vacate the tribesmen from an Air Force firing range. About 3,000 tribesmen fought a pitched battle for more than 7 hours with the security forces who used mortars, artillery, and rocket launchers. The tribesmen say the government action is illegal.

4 Killed, 11 Hurt in Bomb Blast in Charsadda

BK161528 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Four persons were killed and 11 injured when a bomb exploded at a bus stand in Tehsil [Revenue District] Charsadda today.